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THE HISTORY
OF
KINGSWOOD FOREST:

INCLUDING ALL THE
ANCIENT MANORS AND VILLAGES IN THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD.

BY
A. BRAINE,
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The Manse, Somerton, Taunton.

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To
FRED. WAKE PINNEY, ESQ.,
OF THE
GRANGE, SOMERTON,
SON OF THE LATE CHARLES PINNEY, ESQ.,
SOMETIME MAYOR OF BRISTOL,
FOR HIS UNIFORM KINDNESS AND GENTLEMANLY
CONSIDERATIONS
THIS HISTORY OF KINGSWOOD,
WITH UNFEIGNED GRATITUDE,
IS INSCRIBED.



PREFACE.

THE growth of the neighbourhood East of Bristol is involved in a problem which has been somewhat difficult to solve. How a place once so lawless could have entered upon a peaceful and progressive career such as is seldom excelled if indeed equalled under like circumstances, is a subject of wonder. The facts, however, are indisputable; and the following history is intended to show some of the causes of prosperity, and as a tribute and thank-offering to the old staunch and true British spirit in the Kingswood folk, commonly but vulgarly called "pluck." Everybody must rejoice to see lawlessness give place to order, poverty to thrift, especially when these are the result of honest labour or plodding business habits; here, in this neighbourhood, this has been practically and publicly demonstrated. No rich owner or millionaire has ever settled in Kingswood from over the border, bringing his bags of gold into it, but more than one, nay many, have grown rich in it by honest industry and unbending perseverance.

The history of the place has the advantage of some others in contributing to narrative by the fact of its being related to Bristol Castle. I have, therefore, been enabled to weave in a thread "Royal," most precious, almost through the story, as it was connected with the kings in conjunction with the Castle; this gives it a peculiar interest. I have not troubled myself to establish the fact that any part of the original forest is now

extant, that would have been trivial in the face of other interests of more weight; but undoubtedly, Rodway Hill is a part of the "original" forest which has never been cultivated nor built on. Let it be conserved as a park for the people.

I am very grateful for assistance rendered by friends at Kingswood—the late Handel Cossham, the late A. Fussell, D. Flook, of Clifton and Kingswood, A. Amos, the late Vicar of Bitton. To Captain Pinney for introduction and use of Library, Park Street, Bristol.

The State Papers in the British Museum have been of great use to me, also document in Public Record office.

I trust the reader will find much that is suggestive and useful, as well as that which can only satisfy curiosity.



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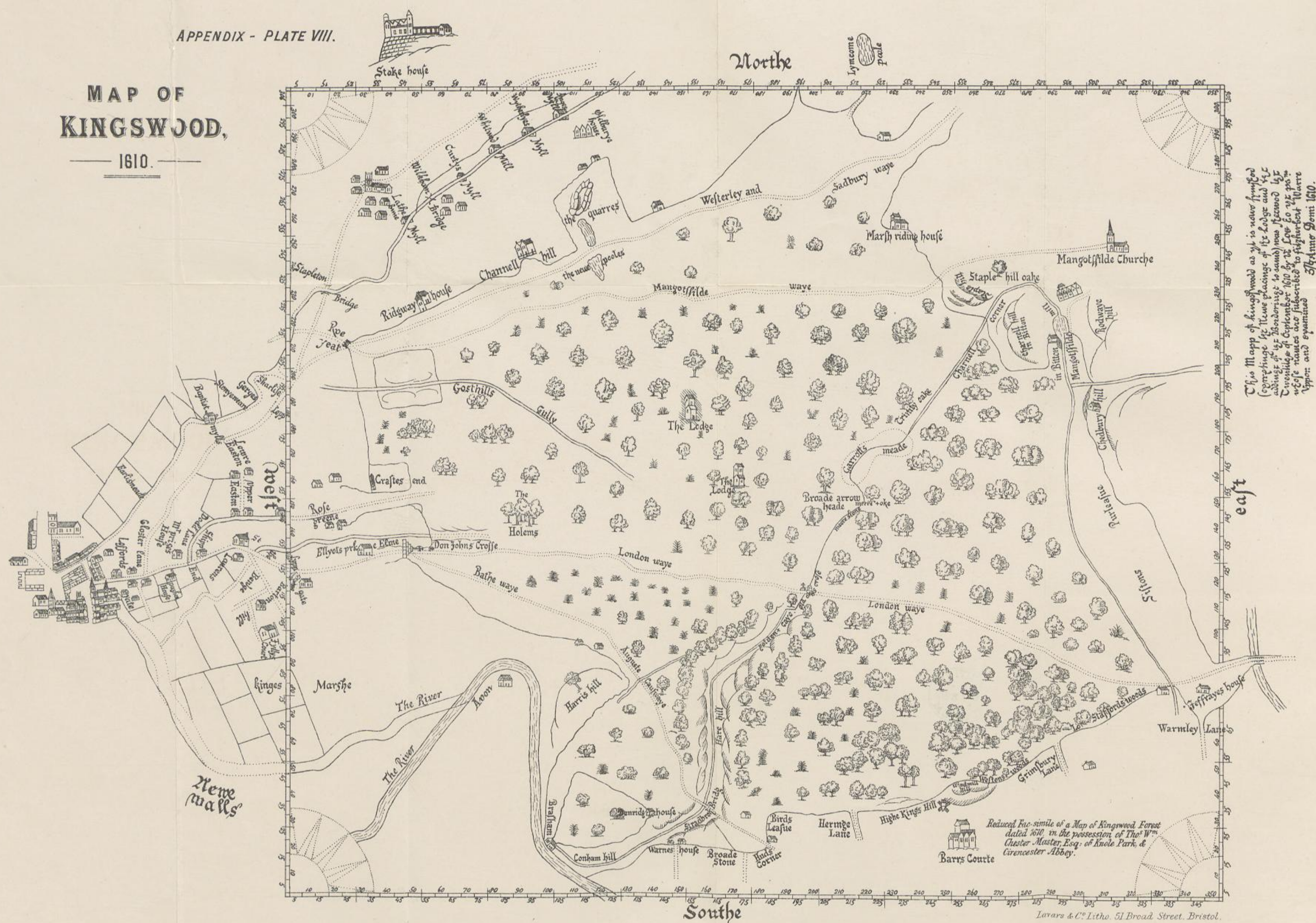


MAP OF
KINGSWOOD

1810



1610.



This Map of Kingswood as y^e is now framed
comprizing the New placeing of the Lodge and y^e
boundings of y^e Abberie is send^d now returned by
Twentieth of September 1610 by the Love to y^e p^ro-
p^rse names and subscribed to fifteen last Warre
Upper: and examined *St Anno Domi 1610.*

HISTORY OF KINGSWOOD FOREST.

CHAPTER I.

SITE OF THE ANCIENT FOREST.

AMONG the many writers who have written anything respecting the ancient forests and chases in England, there are but few who have not referred to the early history of the chase or the forest of Kingswood. Many archæologists, and most of the county historians of Gloucestershire, have been at some pains to gratify local inquiry respecting this place; but their total writings fill only a few pages, most of which are of a very unsatisfactory character. Local writers, also, specially those of parochial fame, refer to it in reference to ecclesiastical matters. I have failed, indeed, to discover any individual who has made it his business, patiently, to trace out any fair account of this place: some have written of it very gloomily; while others again speak of it parenthetically as—*vestigia nulla retrosum*. Perhaps, as the forest had so long disappeared before their day, or little remained of it, except its name preserved in a rising town on its ancient site, together with the paucity of local records or other evidences respecting it, their brief notices were considered a sufficient apology for a more substantial account. In these later and more fruitful days, larger materials have come to hand and greater facilities have been given for their use; hence old documents have been re-read, and others discovered in which is much curious information respecting this almost unknown and hitherto forgotten place. Indeed, there is matter enough now to correct what has been erroneously written, and to augment and entirely recast the local history.

It is not too late then, we hope, and certainly not the less interesting to trace the history of one of those obscure, yet select and highly favoured spots where, once, the royal families of England frequently resorted, and vigorously pursued their earliest and most popular of English sports.

The site of the ancient forest of Kingswood lay over and extended beyond the large and growing neighbourhood now known as St. George and the environs east of Bristol. It included that parish, together with many others adjacent thereto, forming now a large and important suburb of that city, and lying in the county of Gloucestershire. The forest extended also a considerable distance along the southern side of the river Avon, in Somersetshire,—a part which was designated “Fillwood.”

The extensive area begins at a point about seven miles north-east of Bristol, near the village of Pucklechurch, which was in the forest, and continues westward nearly to the city, varying in width from two to five miles. It is a piece of country of the most varied and interesting character—pleasingly undulating and most prettily interspersed with hills and vales; and which, when formerly covered with luxuriant woods, must have presented one of those charming pictures so characteristic of ancient English scenery. Gradually, however, it has lost its forest charms and assumed altogether another aspect. Dense woods and bushes have disappeared, while numerous villages and buildings have sprung up, and are dotted about almost all over its ancient area. Large neighbourhoods of well-built houses, also, are rapidly assuming the character of thickly populated towns.

For very many centuries this tract of forest land has been known as “the great coal-field of Bristol,” where large quantities of coals have been dug, supplying the latter city and neighbourhood with those commodities. These coal-works have greatly marred the aspect of the country, the heaps of shale and sinkings from the pits in many places disfiguring the neighbourhood. Indeed, the whole area has been so long and so thoroughly worked by the colliers and miners of the place, that it is said by them to “resemble an immense warren, burrowed with holes a mile deep and as thick as those in a honeycomb.” Certainly

there are many pits in it, the drainage from which I have traced runs a distance of ten miles underground. Some parts of the neighbourhood abounds in old pits "worked out," *i.e.*, exhausted of coal, and shut up; the lower lying lands in some places being submerged in the waters arising from them.

A considerable belt of the forest, about four miles in width, running north and south, formed the principal part of the coal area. Here, the new red sandstone, overlying the coal series, is seen cropping up in many places throughout the four miles; this gives to those places the peculiar dull red look which belongs to the villages built of pennant stone; and which also, when mingled with the dust, give the houses a dingy appearance. This part of the forest extended along the side of, and included a beautiful valley, clothed with verdure, where often the red deer resorted, seeking the waters of the "Warm Lee"—a small stream running at foot of the hill, and trending through the Warmley valley till it finds its way to the river Avon. This stream of the "Warm Lee" probably gave the name which is still preserved in the village of Warmley.* It embraced also a considerable hill—the anticlinal of the coal-strata, descending towards Warmley, and the synclinal, ascending all the way with the London road from Bristol to Kingswood. The area of this hill is of several miles in extent, and its top could not be reached without an ascent in any part of the forest.

On this healthy eminence has grown up the modern town bearing the ancient name of the forest, KINGSWOOD. The part immediately adjacent to the hill, and lying about two miles around it, is, in later writings, and after the disafforestation designated a *chase*, and is more frequently noticed under that name. It is called "Chacia de Kingswoode"; "a royal chase"; but sometimes "chase" and "forest" are applied to it in the same document indiscriminately.

It is also variously designated "the wood of furcas"—*boscum de furcas*; "the wood furchis," and also "the wood of fuzzes." "Furchis" is the common term applied in documents where the work of timber-cutting is going on for purposes of commerce.

* Anglo-Saxon "leag"=plain: waters of the warm plain or watershed.

The earliest record to this effect is dated 1216, and is addressed to the constable of Bristol castle to allow an Irish judge * to take "three stags and some poles from the wood of furchis for *cleting*, i.e., *mending* his ship. The next year one "Roger Alard was allowed to take ten oaks for building his ship."† The furchis wood lay nearest Bristol. It would appear, therefore, that part of the forest consisted mainly of fir trees, as there appear to be no other tree that answers to the description. The "Furch,"‡ whatever kind of tree it was, together with thousands of oaks, were cut down every year for the various uses recorded.

The boundary of the forest, or its *ancient* area, cannot be ascertained with certainty. But it seems to have covered an area of at least eighteen miles; or about six miles long and three miles broad. Several parishes were formed either partly, or wholly, within its area. Sir Robert Atkins says, "At the division of the country into hundreds and parishes, a great part of the parish of Pucklechurch was apportioned *in* the forest of Kingswood." Other parishes also, as that of Bitton—including the parishes of Hanham and Oldland; also "Bristleton," in Somersetshire, and possibly Mangotsfield, were thus apportioned in the original King's woods. This is clearly shown by the several king's mandates, issued to distinguished persons of the neighbourhood, who were then holding lands or manors under him. These lands or manors were parts of parishes, or else the whole areas of such parishes; while, at the same time, they are described as wholly or partly within the boundary of the king's forest. Some persons write very ingenuously, but very unhistorically, of forests being *within* their parishes, or partly so, as though the parishes were the older, when the truth is as I have stated.

* He was owner of Hanham manor.

† Close Roll (17. John: M. 21, 1265-6).

‡ Since writing my brief account of Kingswood Forest in the *Bristol Daily Press*—Mr. ELLACOMBE, the Vicar of Bitton, has published his "Parish History." Some of my notes are found in his History. He says that it is certainly "not the fir tree." Compare "birch," "larch," "furch," with the Anglo-Saxon gutteral "ch."

The credit of the parochial system, or the dividing of the land in England into hundreds and parishes, is, usually, ascribed to Bishop Theodore—a Greek monk of Tarsus, whom Rome sent to England to assume the oversight of the See of Canterbury, A.D. 668-669. It is from some of this ecclesiastic's doings, and from the way in which the privileged and legal possessions of royalty descended from king to king, or from one royal heir to another, that we learn how Kingswood came to be, at this early date, a royal forest; and that it was appurtenant to the palace as the king's demesne in this place.

All early documents, or transcripts of ancient surveys, give details which show us clearly the purpose and origin of forests. And they also inform us, that in those very remote times, it was then understood of all forest lands, that such lands were not royal possessions merely, but were the possessions of kings by their own monarchical and hereditary right—a right of privilege, falling to them because of regal blood. And also that they were a legal inheritance, descending to them from all past time. And “the history of any period of time distinctly shows that every prince has entered into his royal domains in this manner: entered upon them and possessed them through his regal ancestors, in the same manner as he did the crown of his country.”* In many instances, therefore, even amidst the much detail when surveys have been made of the king's lands, chases, and parks in England, some places have not been named, as they were so well understood at the time as being the *Terra Regia*—the land of the king, or royal land. Hence Fosbroke writes: “Forests and chases belonged to no country or diocese, they were governed by a law of their own, neither municipal nor civil, and they acknowledged no sovereign but the king, then acting with arbitrary power.”† We must dismiss from our minds, therefore, here, the idea so potential in some persons, that documentary proofs are essential to the details of every successional event in the history of forests. Certainly this cannot be done with the history of Kingswood Forest, nor can it be done with any other. We shall ascertain, however, from many reliable sources, in-

* Fosbroke.

† Fosbroke's History.

cluding the writings of some of the most distinguished historians, both of early and later periods, that Pucklechurch was the early residence—perhaps one of the first—of the Anglo-Saxon kings, and is, therefore, closely associated with the greatest and noblest of that regal race.

The locality, according to some, would be chosen as a royal residence chiefly because of its situation. It is in a very retired spot, at a convenient distance from several large towns, was then surrounded by immense forests; it would, therefore, be a safe and quiet retreat. Here would be the greatest immunity from insults and many rough annoyances, so common in those early days. Under the green trees of the wood the best opportunity would be afforded for the skill of the "bowmen" and the practice of the soldiers. Early chroniclers inform us, that in very ancient times the Germans, who were the ancestors of the Anglo-Saxon races, threw the country adjacent to their chief residences into wastes and deserts, for the purposes of superior safety and defence. This mode of safety, they say, had been their practice a long time in their own land, and many years prior to the Roman invasion in England. The Romans, however, both preceded and retired from this country before any Saxon incursion occurred; and they left behind them, almost wholly *in situ*, numerous camps and plans which had been their defences and strongholds during their stay here. Curiously, these Roman camps and plans reveal to us, not only the manner of the Roman defences, but also that of a much earlier mode of protection which had been observed and sustained in this country long prior to that adopted by themselves. By whom these older defences were constructed we are not yet informed; they may have been Celtic, or there may have been Germanic raids made upon England prior to the Roman invasion, whose leaders founded them.

"The Romans, it appears, upon these old sites, determined to guard themselves while in this neighbourhood in no ordinary manner, probably against the possible attacks of the Silures from the Welch coast, or from some other cause."* The Anglo-Saxons

* Sir R. Atkins.

immediately following the exit of the Romans, succeeded to their camps and defences, and again, after their own tribal and original manner, immediately set about defending themselves by throwing the land into wastes and deserts, after the style of its original condition. And thus, as they were the last, by the peculiar manner of their Germanic ancestors, as shown above, they were those who, in all probability, prepared the large area of waste land known as Kingswood Forest. It would appear from this, therefore, as Fosbroke observes, that the forest could not have been held for the mere purposes of hunting, as some affirm but was for the retreat and security of troops and the protection of the royal household.* Kingswood Forest is said, accordingly, to have had existence for the safety of Bristol, to the palace at Pucklechurch, to Kingweston, and other demonstrative marks of royal residences in the Anglo-Saxon era.†



* Fosbroke's Plea, Will I.† *Ibid.*

CHAPTER II.

SAXON KINGS.—S. DUNSTANE AND OTHERS RESIDENT AT
PUCKLECHURCH.

ROYAL SPORTS, &c., IN KINGSWOOD.

KING Edmund, grandson to Alfred the Great, who routed the Danes from the five burghs, was, in the height of his power and success, and in his palace home, assassinated at Pucklechurch, A.D. 940. As the king feasted during the festival of S. Augustine, one Leofa, a robber, whom the king had banished, sate himself at the board and drew on the cupbearer, who bade him retire. Edmund springing to his thegn's aid, seized the robber by his hair and flung him to the ground, but Leofa had stabbed the king ere rescue could arrive.* Edmund's short reign and early death, at the age of twenty-four, left a young queen and widow—Aelfleda,† in care of two little boys, her step-children—sons of Elfgiver, Edmund's first wife. Aelfleda—Edmund's second wife—was the daughter of Elgar, the ealdorman of Dyrham, an adjoining village to Pucklechurch. The two princes of Edmund being too young to ascend the throne, his brother, Edred, succeeded to it. Edred reigned about nine years, and died at Froom. The royal youths of Edmund

* Green's History.

† In the Saxon Chronicle (MS. Coll. Lib., A. vi.), for the year 960, the record is thus:—"It is widely known how his days ended; that Leofa stabbed him at Pucklechurch. And ALFLEDA, at Damerham, Elgar's daughter, the Ealdorman, was then his queen." In the same MS., for the year 955, there is this:—"This year died Edred, and then Edwy succeeded to the kingdom—King Edmund's and St. ELFGIVAR's son." In the other Coll. MS. thus:—"Edwy succeeded to the kingdom of the West Saxons, and Edgar to the kingdom of the Mercians; and they were the sons of King Edmund and of S. ELFGIVA." By this it appears Edmund was twice married; or his sons were base born; or AELFLEDA and ELFGIVA are names of one woman only.

then followed in order. With the first—Edwy—the Saxon heptarchy came to an end; with the second—Edgar—England, for the first time, bowed to the sceptre of one monarch only. The lives of each of these young kings were exceedingly brief, and noted for some extraordinary and painful events. There are dark shadows over them which the light of history will never efface. Yet their short career is marked by noble traits of character, not unlike those of their renowned ancestor, Alfred. The bold spirit of Edwy—a mere boy—attempting to assert his kingly prerogative over church and state, is not without its lessons. For who would have dared in those times to resist the will of so great and so potential a personage as St. Dunstane, directed by so powerful a primate as Odo, behind whom lay the strength of the whole papal power? Edwy would and did. St. Dunstane, and an intolerant ecclesiastical party, saw in this fair youth a spirit strongly opposed to their policy, and they lost no opportunity to break it. At the coronation, therefore, a single act of Edwy's was purposely construed into a breach of etiquette, and brought as an offence against him. Edwy was, therefore, subjected to the grossest insults, and assailed with the vilest epithets. Being thus galled into a violent passion, he flung the crown from his head and kicked it away in disdain. Speedily also, in extreme disgust, he banished St. Dunstane. But, alas for Edwy, the church was stronger than the king; and a painful sequel followed. The Archbishop, Odo, of Canterbury, burning with rage at Edwy's daring, shamefully put to the torture Edwy's beautiful young wife and queen—Elgiva—branding her in the face with a white-hot iron and sending her out of the country. Returning again to her country soon after this, the Archbishop met her and cruelly murdered her by cutting the sinews of her knees, and left her to die on the highway. At this ruthless and cruel treatment the Northumbrians rose in revolt, making Edgar their king. Edwy, humbled, and forced from half his possessions south of the Thames, was compelled to retire, and died of a broken heart.

Edgar's reign is described as a most brilliant one; for, as already observed, all England owned his sway; no foe, foreign or domestic, vexed the land. Eight princes did him homage by

rowing his royal barge at Chester. Yearly he made a journey through the land. He reduced weights and measures to a standard. He cleared the Welsh forests of wolves, by accepting wolves' heads instead of tribute money. He recalled St. Dunstane from exile. He was tender, humane, and considerate. Thus much and more may be written in his favour. Yet, in his last days, he seemed to have become utterly demoralized, losing every sense of virtue and right. He became vain and cruel, and died with the dark stain of murder upon his otherwise fair hands.

The Rev. Thomas Milner says: Edgar assumed the most pompous titles, took credit in charters for conquests upon which history is silent, and appeared in public with great ostentation. He was personally a libertine, made his court dissolute, and did not hesitate to purchase the gratification of his passions by committing the foulest of crimes. Edgar was twice married. By the first wife he had a son, Edward, who succeeded him on the throne; and by the second, another son, Ethelred, who also afterwards became king. This last connexion was attended with circumstances which cover both parties with infamy. Elfrida, the daughter of one of his nobles, and the wife of another, renowned for her beauty, sought to captivate the king. Succeeding in this object, Edgar, either personally or by his agents, removed the husband out of the way by a violent death, and united himself to the widow. No punishment reached the delinquent in this life, but providence marked the crime, and chastisement signally came upon the house. The woman for whom he committed a murder became the murderess of his eldest son (Edward the Martyr); the child she brought him (Ethelred) grew up to be a curse of the country, and the author of its surrender to the Danes; one of his grandsons (Edmund Ironside) was deprived of the crown by assassination, after a seven months' troubled possession of it; a second son (Edwy) was likewise foully slain; with a third (Edward the Confessor) the royal line of the Anglo-Saxon kings terminated; while Edgar himself was speedily taken from the scene of his criminal indulgences, dying at the early age of thirty-two.* These three

* Milner's History of England.

kings—Edmund, Edwy, Edgar—were resident at the palace at Pucklechurch. Edmund was assassinated in it. Aelfleda, the mother of Kings Edwy and Edgar, was the daughter of Elgar, the ealdorman of Dyrham. Dyrham village adjoins Pucklechurch. The Ealdorman's office was equal to that of the lord-lieutenant in modern times; he stood next in rank to the sovereign, and was sub-governor of a district, shire, or several counties.

Agreeably with this royal race then at Pucklechurch, and in high social station, will be found also other regal associates and dignitaries consorting together therewith. These were the ealdormen, abbots, and priests who, in those times, and in their various capacities, were the most conspicuous and noteworthy at court or with the king in his exploits. These were, more especially, the abbots, as they were then considered to be either of regal affinity or of royal birth. Consequently they were the advisers and constant companions of the kings and princes in all their proceedings, whether of pastime, battle, or devotion. Thus St. Dunstane and the venerable Turketul are to be seen often at court, taking some active parts in either the pleasures or the duties of royalty.

St. Dunstane, in early life, had been Edmund's priest at the palace, and was afterwards installed as Abbot of Glastonbury by royal patronage. He is frequently described as doing some duty or taking some pleasure with the king; but his company was not always welcome in the august circle. On one occasion while at court his presence was the signal for an outburst of ill-will against him among all the courtiers assembled, many of whom were probably his kinsmen. They drove him from the king's train, threw him from his horse as he passed through the marshes, and—with the wild passion of their age—trampled him under their feet in the mire.*

It may be remarked here, that if it be true, as many historians affirm, that our forests were created and expressly preserved for the purpose of hunting and other royal pastimes, then such sports must have often been pursued in Kingswood, and by all

* Green's History. Mabillon's Life of S. Dunstane, &c.

of King Alfred's grandsons who, in all probability, after the manner of Edmund's and St. Dunstane's example on the Mendip hills, frequently sported in company with the ealdormen and priests when on their way through the forest from the palace at Pucklechurch to Glastonbury. For the forest then extended into Somersetshire, and, together with the Keynsham chase, the woods extended to Chewton Mendip, at the foot of the Mendip hills. It was while thus engaged that King Edmund was led to promote his friend—Dunstane—as the Abbot of Glastonbury. "The king had spent the day in the chase; the red deer which he was pursuing dashed over the Cheddar cliffs, and his horse only checked itself on the brink of the ravine, while Edward—in the bitterness of death—was repenting of the injustice he had done to his priest. He was at once summoned to return. 'Saddle your horse,' said Edmund, 'and ride with me.' The royal train then swept over the marshes (now called the moors) from Cheddar to his home; and the king bestowing on him the kiss of peace, seated him in the priestly chair as the Abbot of Glastonbury."* The king afterwards generously granted to St. Mary's and the Abbot St. Dunstane, "the liberties, customs, forfeitures in all their lands; that is Burghbrice, Socna, Athas, Ordela, Insangenetheosas, Homsecna, Frithbrice, Foresteal Toll and Team through the kingdom of England—free from all claims and be enjoyed as his own." This grant was confirmed by charter 944.

Hunting and falconry were the chief field-sports then of the great. The beasts of the forest or chase protected by fines, and reserved for these privileged persons, were the stag, roebuck, hare, and rabbit. The wolf, fox, and boar might be killed by anyone with impunity, if found without the limits of chase or forest. In falconry, the wild duck and heron were the common quarry.

Most of the later Saxon kings were also sportsmen, and appear to have sported in this forest. Edward the Martyr was slain after hunting. And, of Edward the Confessor, it is recorded in the Domesday survey, that during his reign the king's barton,

* Green's History.

appendant to Bristol Castle, rendered annually the sum of "nine pounds two shillings, and three thousand loaves for the dogs." As the king's officer of the Castle of Bristol was also the chief officer or warden of the forest, where it was thus appendant, according to forest law, it is conclusive that this King, Edward the Confessor, must have frequently sported in this locality; or, otherwise, the provision of so many "loaves for the dogs" is inexplicable. Whether, however, the forests were originally intended for sport, or for the more reasonable uses of security and defence to the royal houses, it is indisputable that the large area of land, bearing the Royal names of Kingswood Forest and Kingswood Chase, was closely associated with the Saxon kings; was, indeed, one the earliest of forests in England, and was the royal domain appurtenant to the palace at Pucklechurch.



CHAPTER III.

FOREST LANDS, AND CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE DURING THE TIMES OF THE DANES.

AFTER the fall of the West-Saxon kingdom we get but scanty accounts of forests till we come to the time of the Normans, excepting, perhaps, the oppressive forest laws usually, but falsely, ascribed to Canute, the Danish king. At this time the greater part of English soil was still wild and uncultivated. A good third of the land was covered with wood, thicket, or scrub; another third consisted of heaths and moor. In both east and west there were vast tracts of marsh land; fens, nearly one hundred miles in length, severed East Anglia from the midland counties; sites like that of Glastonbury or Athelney were almost inaccessible. The bustard roamed over the downs, beaver was hunted at Beverley, and the huntsmen yet roused the bear in his forest lair. But the forests, even then, shrank into narrower bounds. And protection for the wild deer could only be thought of when stag and bittern were retreating before the face of man, when the farmer's axe was ringing in the woods and villages springing up in the clearings.*

It would be interesting, writes Milner, to have a pictorial representation of the natural landscape in various parts of the country at this era, in order to observe the change wrought by the hand of time, of art, and of cultivation. But, in the absence of such delineations, we must be content with the information which can be gathered from ancient chronicles, and may be inferred from the ordinary course of events.

The area of cleared ground and tilled soil was utterly insignificant compared with the vast extent of forest, marsh, and moorland; and millions of acres of what are now rich meadow or

* Green.

arable land were then natural woods or marshes. The sea rolled over many a tract of what is at present fertile soil. Rivers, flowing at present in well-defined channels, once spread out their waters in immense sluggish pools. In the West of England, all around the foot of the Mendip Hills and on both sides of the Poldein range, the waters appeared like a vast sea sweeping to and fro, and with the tidal waters of the River Severn, flowed regularly to the little islands of Athelney and Avelon, covering entirely the moorland where the Duke of Monmouth fought and fled.

But to return to the Danish kings, or to the period brought to view, as before stated, there are but few notices respecting forest lands designated as such. It will be, however, necessary here, in order to understand some of the privileges, honours, and incomes of the Lords of the Manors of Kingswood—noted hereafter—to revert to some of the laws and customs of this early period for that purpose.

In governing the kingdom, Canute divided it into four great provinces, directing the affairs of Wessex himself, and ruling East Anglia, Mercia, and Northumberland by earls.

“The laws which he enacted at Winchester, ecclesiastical and secular, are still extant. The former he rigidly enforced, and prohibited huntings and worldly work on Sundays: by which we may understand that hunting was a favourite Sunday sport. Canute’s laws were mainly observed during the succeeding Danish kings. The royal prerogative was summoning and prorogation of the ‘Witan,’ the appointment of the ealdormen and sheriffs, the superintendence of coinage, purveyance for himself and his officers, property in forests, treasure-trove, wines, wreckage, and, as we have seen, extensive domains descending with the Crown.”*

There were, at this time, 160,000 freemen, denominated *ceorls*, who were the cultivators of the soil. These are called later, in the Norman survey, *villeins*, or villagers (the Latin word for that name). Their condition varied; some were freeholders. There was a lower class who were unfree, or absolute serfs—the *servi*, or servants of Doomsday. These were slaves by birth; others

* Milner’s His. Eng.

were condemned to be such by violating the law or for debt, and their inability to pay.

The survey of King William, called "Doomsday," which was compiled at Gloucester, gives the number of villages, slaves, and sojourners on each manor at the time recorded—that is, at the end of the Danish and Saxon period. A township (*tun*) included the homestead of the lord of the manor and cottages of the tenants, and the lands let out to them. The tenants had a common right of free pasturage in all their lord's unenclosed lands. In townships the simple freemen were enrolled in *tythings*, so called from the place containing ten free families; and in a *tything* every member was responsible for the orderly behaviour of the others in the *tything*; a system of police which bears the name of *Frankpledge*. The system was not universal, and all had not the view of *Frankpledge*. As I find some of the manors of Kingswood had this honour, I have introduced and explained thus much and what follows on this account.

The view of *Frankpledge*, or "Court Leet," was held once a year before the steward of the manor, generally in the *tun-mote*—town-hall, usually a hall in the lord's homestead; and, according to "the installation of Alfred, was originally intended to view the *Frankpledges* or sureties for the good behaviour of themselves and of each other, and the punishment of various minute offences against the public good."† This view of *Frankpledge* descended afterwards as an honour to the lords who presided at the Court Leet, accompanied with grants from the Crown.

The other courts were the "Hundred Court," or hundred-mote; the Shire-mote—i.e., County Court; and Witengemote, or Parliament.

† Blackstone.

CHAPTER IV.

FROM WILLIAM I. TO JOHN.

IN King William's time there were sixty-eight forests, thirteen chases, and seven hundred and eighty-one parks. In the enumeration of baronies, the land was subdivided into sixty thousand two hundred and fifteen knights' fees (fiefs), the whole comprising a first, second, and third class of military landowners. In these baronies Bristol Castle and Barton Regis is mentioned. It rendered together a knight's fee and other moneys yearly to the Barons of Gloucester doing baronial homage or service to the Crown. The other baronial area was Bitton, which included parts of Oldland and Hanham; these lands together rendered also a knight's fee. The acreage of a knight's fee was six hundred and forty acres—equal to one square mile. Deducting these baronial divisions, we get some idea of the land outside, which was designated the forest in this place, and at this time. We must not think it was necessarily all woodland: forests were defined at that time to be woody-grounds, wastes, and scrubland not enclosed by fences like parks.

We can conceive of Kingswood, therefore, in King William the Conqueror's time, as spreading beyond Mangotsfield, over the scrubland of Rodway Hill, which no doubt is part of the original forest, and far on over the common to Siston and Wick; then trending again to Bitton and Hanham, and backward, embracing the commons of Oldland, North Common, Cadbury Heath, Longwell Green, and so onward both sides of the old Roman road, the *viâ Julia*, to Bristol.

Knowing the character of the King, William, that he was so conservative in the matter of forest, we may be assured he took care of Kingswood. He loved the wild deer, it is said, as though

he had been their father; and made a law, "that whosoever shall slay hart or hind, man shall be made blind." The small forest of Kingswood could not compare with others of vast proportions; but, being near the greatest western city, it would be most convenient for royal visitors or others desirous of hunting in this district.

The first constable of Bristol Castle, and who also held the wardship of Kingswood Forest under William the First, was Bishop Godfrey. He was Bishop of Constance, and received about £28 for his office in the castle. He was a monk, and in 1072, was brought over from Normandy by Theodwyn, whom King William had promoted to the See of Ely. He was afterwards Abbot of Malmsbury, 1081. He obtained a large number of gifts from William,—as many as two hundred and eighty manors (a manendo) being given him. The West Saxons of Dorset and Somerset having assaulted Montacute (Montemeutum) received a check from this prelate, at the head of the men of Monmouthshire (Guentani), London, and Salisbury. He assisted at the conqueror's funeral.

The next authority of Kingswood is William Rufus, who gave all the liberties formerly enjoyed by Birtric to Robert Fitzhaymon. This nobleman, of which I give a brief notice under Bitton manor, was a distinguished man in his day. He had no son, but four daughters; the eldest of which, Mabile, married Robert, natural son of King Henry the First. The king, unwilling to divide the honour of Gloucester between the four daughters, conferred the whole upon the eldest daughter and his son Robert, creating him Earl of Gloucester. Robert was the son which the king had by "Nesta Prince," a Welsh lady. In 1110 Robert was Lord of Bristol Castle by his marriage and creation, being then about twenty* years of age.

At this period almost every family of note adopted the continental fashion of adding some additional surname to their patronymic. Generally, in England, they were hereditary surnames derived from manors or localities. In the country we have, therefore, the De Warrens, De Mortimers, D'Evereux, and

* Barret's Bristol.

many others with various prefixes. In the neighbourhood of Bristol many adopted this custom. Hence we have De Button, De Hanham, De Newton, De Ford, &c.

King Henry is supposed to be courting Mabile Fitzhaymon in the interest of his son Robert. But this lady is a very lofty dame, and refuses to have him because he has no surname of distinction. The story is put in verse thus :

- "Sir," she said, "I wote your heart upon me is
More for my heritage than for myself, I wis ;
And such heritage as I have, it were to me great shame
To take a Lord, but he had no surname."
- "Damsel," quoth the King, "thou seest well in this case—
Sir Robert Fitzhayme thy father's name was.
As fair a name he shall have, as you may see,
Sir Robert *le Fitz Roy* shall his name be."
- "Damsel," he said, "thy Lord shall have a name
For him and for his heirs fain without blame ;
For Robert, Earl of Gloster, his name shall be and is—
He shall be Earl of Gloster, and his heirs, I wis."
- "In this form," quoth she, "I will, that all my thing be his."*

Robert died 1147, and was buried in St. James' Priory, Bristol, which he had founded.

King Stephen, coming to power, appointed Milo, Earl of Hereford, 1141, who was succeeded by Sir Bartholemew Currishall—an ancestor of the Churchill family—over the manor of Barton and Kingswood Forest.

William, son of Robert of Gloucester, was the next authority of Bristol Castle and the forest. He died in Bristol, and was buried at the priory in Keynsham. He was the founder of the priory there, and endowed it with the lordship of Marschesal, and appropriated the benefice to St. James' Priory. This William was the last of the sixteen lords of Gloucester.

I find but few notices of Kingswood or Bristol Castle during Henry's, Fitz Empress, reign. Some light is thrown upon the period by Peter of Blois in regard to sports. Peter was undoubtedly a good man ; he was invited here by Henry, and

* B. Bristol.

became Chancellor of Canterbury. In a letter to the king, Peter states that he feels it his duty to mention the conduct of some of his own officers, as it constantly happens that the person who ought to know a bad story first is the very one who knows it last. "Your justices in eyre," says he, "who are sent to check other men's faults have a great many of their own." They hide men's crimes from favour, or fear, or relationship, or money. The officers of the verderers or sheriffs satisfy their rapacity by plundering the poor, &c. He tells Reginald, a dignitary of Salisbury addicted to fowling, that a hair shirt and a hawk, mortifying the flesh and jollity, do not suit well together. "If then," he goes on, "you are a Christian teacher, pray leave off running and shouting after those birds." Walter, an octogenarian hunter, Bishop of Rochester, is thus reprimanded: "I wish you to know that the Pope has heard that you take no care of your diocese, and pay no regard to the dignity of your office, but give up your whole life to a pack of hounds, and that age has not produced any moderation in you. My father—a man of eighty—ought to have nothing to say to such matters, and much less a bishop. You are bound to pursue a very different *kind of hunting*." At this time many of the bishops and clergy were both sporting and fighting men. The same authority states that some of the clergy practised chaffering and dealt in wares to increase their revenues; and clerks, disappointed of the benefices they wished for, betook themselves to the woods, and joined with robbers in plundering and murdering their successful rivals.

We find no mention of Kingswood in the reign of Richard the First, from the fact, possibly, that he only spent about four months in England out of the ten years of his reign.

The last Earl of Gloucester, William, son of Robertus, consul filius Henricus, regius, *Nothus*, died leaving three daughters. John, then Earl of Moreton, married Joanna, the eldest, and obtained earldom of Gloucester. He next married Isabella of Angoulême, having first divorced Joanna. He was crowned and re-crowned in the same year (1199),—the last time at Westminster. It is said he gave back a portion of his fortune to his first wife, but retained "yn his honds the town and castle of Brightstow, within the hundred of Barton lying in Glocestershire," "hard

by Brightstow, as betwixt the forest of Kingswood and it: and so it hathe synce remayned in the kinges honds."*

A document stated that Hugh de Neville perambulated the forest in the reign of King John.† Possibly he was the constable and chief warden.

In the sixth year of his reign, 1205, King John confirmed a grant to John le Warre (which grant he had formerly made to him before he attained the crown, at the request of his then wife, Joanna, coheir of William, Earl of Gloucester) of the honour of Gloucester and castle of Bristol, with the manor of Bristleton, a part of that honour.‡ Bristleton, therefore (now called Brislington), was at this early date within the bounds of Kingswood Forest, although in the county of Somerset, and was a part of the honour of Gloucester. In the eighth year of his reign, 1207, the "King granted the town of Bristol in the fee farm to the burgesses at a yearly rent of £245; but the castle he excepted, and also reserved the prisage of beer, as much as the constable and the people there may have need of; also the bailiwick of Berton, the chase of Brull [ii.] of Keynsham, and the wood of furches, all which the king retained in his own hands."

Hugo de Hastings was constable during King John's reign; and some suppose him to be next, having had charge of the Princess Eleanor, who was prisoner in the castle forty years under her cruel uncle, King John.

Next we find a record addressed to the constable of Bristol Castle to allow Geoffry de Marisco, an Irish Judge, to take three stags and some poles from the wood of furchis for cleting (*ad cleindas*)—i.e., repairing his ship.

Tradition connects some places within the forest area with King John's memory, and points to an old house as the site of one of the ancient "lodges" said to have been built by him. It has retained its old name of King John's Lodge to this day. It is marked on all the ancient maps; and its situation is exactly in the centre of the place, and upon the highest spot of land in the

* Leland.

† Close Roll (2 Henry III., M. 6, 1218) missing.

‡ Barret.

forest. It is sometimes called Kingswood Lodge; but is better known as "Brain's Lodge," from the fact of some coalpit proprietor having lived there for years of the name of Brain.

Hugh de Vivon, of Bitton, a baron of some celebrity, became the warden of Kingswood and constable of the castle of Bristol; but whether in King John's time, I cannot find. In a later document, when Henry the Third had made him warden, he tells that king "that he had been a great benefactor to his father, King John, before he (Hugh de Vivon) came to England." Thus we learn that he was a foreigner. This Hugh married first Petronella, of Bitton, and left an only daughter of the same name. This daughter was the ancestor of the numerous family of Blounts, who intermarried with the Seymours, descendants of Jane Seymour, who was beheaded.



CHAPTER V.

JOHN, TO THE DISAFFORESTATION

THERE are a number of notices and references to Kingswood during the reign of Henry III. They are interesting, as they convey to us a view of the general mode of communication between the authorities of the place and the king.

Hugh de Vivon, referred to in my last, was appointed constable of the castle and warden of the forest by Henry III., 1218. He was commanded to allow one Roger Alard to take ten oaks from the forest for the building of his ship. This mandate he refused to obey. The same year, 1218, he was ordered to deliver up to Gilbert de Clare, the Earl of Gloucester, the Berton of Bristol, with the wood of [furches and the chase of Keynsham, as belonging to his honour of Gloucester by heirship. This notice was repeated to him the next year, June 29th, 1219, in much the same language. Hugh de Vivon exhibits his stubbornness by paying a deaf ear to the king. Then a mandate is issued to him on March 7th the following year, to the effect, that unless the thing be done within forty days from that date all the lands which he possessed would be seized and held until the mandate is complied with. Among the royal letters in the Public Record Office there is one from Hugh de Vivon to the king on this matter, dated about March, 1219.* In this letter, which is worded courteously, he intimates the reason for his refusal to obey the mandate. He says: that though a king's officer he refused to comply with the order "untill I am provided with the means for maintaining the Castle of Bristol, having been promised by the council 100 pounds rent and 100 marcs of silver for that purpose, of which I have not received

anything. As for what you threaten to do, that you will seize and keep all my lands untill I comply, I scarcely think I deserve such treatment, considering the services I have rendered to you and to your father, King John, having given up much richer and more profitable lands than I have obtained in England. I have always served you and your father faithfully, and I am still ready to continue my service as long as I live, if it be your pleasure." This order was repeated on four subsequent occasions: 1219, and again in 1220; again in the next year, 9th August, and 12th of September, 1221.

After this it appears that De Vivon gave up the castle and his authority in this place. In the last year of his office, 1221, we see that the manor of Bitton was connected with the forest. This appears by a Close Roll, 5, Henry III. Therein the king commands the constable (Hugh de Vivon) "to allow Robert de Ameneville to have quiet possession of his woods of furchis, as he held it in the time of King John." This Robert de Ameneville was Hugh de Vivon's father-in-law; and this incident further illustrates the determined attitude of Hugh. He would not allow Roger Alard to cut his oaks for building his ships; he refused to obey the king's authority; and he refused his father-in-law the exercise of those rights in the forest which accrued to him as lord of the manor of Bitton.

There may have been some special reason for Hugh's opposition to the royal mandate. The Earl of Gloucester, Gilbert de Clare, to whom Hugh was ordered to deliver up the castle and forest, was, thirty years afterwards, the earl who appeared at the head of baronage and demanded the appointment of a committee to draw up terms for the representation of the state. This was a new royal council, consisting wholly of adherents to the barons, and which led to the barons' war. The Earl of Gloucester was at first an adherent to the royal party, but afterwards leader in the barons' war. About the time when Hugh de Vivon was in the neighbourhood the barons began to feel their growing power, and showed it by many demonstrative marks against the royal authority. This may have accounted for Hugh's disobedience to the royal mandate. The Earl of Chester also, had suddenly, at the head of the feudal baronage, arisen in

armed rebellion against the royal power. And a Frenchman, Faukes de Breaute, the sheriff of six counties, with six royal castles in his hands, and allied both with the rebel barons and Llewelyn in Wales, was one of these. His castle at Bedford was besieged for two months before he surrendered. The stern justice of Stephen Langton, however, hanged the twenty-four knights and their retainers outside the castle walls, before its lay lords, who would have spared them, had gone to dinner.* This blow was effectual; all the royal castles were surrendered by the barons, and the land was once more at peace. Whether Hugh de Vivon had done other than exhibited his stubbornness at this time does not appear. He was slain in Wales, 1257. His wife died at Bitton.

The succeeding reference to Kingswood and the castle authorities is contained in the great Pipe Rolls, 1223.† In these documents the constable accounts for certain incomes of the castle under the name of wood silver, which were profits of the forest and accounted for yearly to the authorities of the castle. They were charges for digging sea-coal, earth for making pottery, and quarrying stone within the forest limits on both sides of the Avon. The wages of the constable of the castle and keeper of the forest were allowed out of the profits belonging to the Castle of Bristol.

By letters patent, Ralph de Willington is the next constable of Berton and keeper of Kingswood,‡ with everything thereto belonging. The king ordered the keeper of his wine to deliver six casks of wine at the castle for his use.§ And, again, on the 15th of the same month (8br), he is ordered to supply timber from the wood of furchis for the repair of the king's mills at Bristol, to be selected by the verderers and foresters. In the next year the keeper is ordered to supply Richard de Vain with two planks and other timber from the same wood.|| Now that

* Green's History.

† 8. Henry III., 1223.

Pal. Roll (8. Henry III., M. 2, 1224).

§ Close Roll (8. Henry III., M. 3, 1224).

|| Close Roll (9. Henry III., M. 4, 1225).

Hugh de Vivon is no longer the authority in Kingswood and the Castle of Bristol, we find Robert de Ameneville making use of his right within the forest, but not without dispute. An inquest was held to prove the right "whether Robert de Ameneville, when he allowed strange pigs to have agisment in his own wood, was accustomed also to let his own pigs run in the wood of furchis—Kingswood, at the time when the Bishop of Norwich was constable of the castle? And the jury gave a verdict that such was the case. Also they say that the pigs of Berton of Bristol were allowed agisment in the wood of Bitton without pannage (payment), therefore the constable was commanded not to interfere with this custom, and at once to return to Robert de Ameneville the five pence which had been exacted." The lord of Bitton had also a right to a certain quantity of wood.

Fosbroke states * that Hugh de Gourney had all his lands seized for hunting, in that part of the forest called Huntingford Chase, without the king's license. Sayers also quotes the same authority: "By a precept to the constable of Bristol Castle, Hugh de Gouray had his lands seized for hunting in the king's chace, Kingswood, by Bristol, for three days without license.†



* By Fine Roll (7. Henry III.)

† Sayer's "Bristol," p. 356.

CHAPTER VI.

THE DISAFFORESTATION.

IT was found necessary about this time, through the pecuniary needs of the king, to call together the great national council and ask the country for a subsidy. This was granted by the council, but only on the condition that the great charter of John should be confirmed, and its provision better respected by the officers of the Crown—the barons and prelates both considering it had been generally neglected. The subsidy was accepted on these terms, and Magna-Charta was re-issued by the council; together also with a separate charter, called the Charter of Forests—a charter which disafforested several extensive tracts of forest land, and mitigated the severity of the law with reference to those which were to be preserved. The events, indeed, which had been taking place during the last ten or twelve years were preliminary and preparatory to the great changes effected in all the forest laws at this time. Stephen Langton, who had dealt such a masterstroke at the barons in their strong castles, is acknowledged to have had a great respect for the charter; but during his absence and disgrace at Rome certain points in it were restricted, and the royal power over taxation, &c., had been omitted. On the archbishop's return there was a second issue of the charter with the omissions corrected; together also with another and separate charter, called the "Charter of Forests," which had been previously formed out of some of its clauses.* It is this latter charter which is so frequently quoted when reference is made to the disafforestation. The substantial reasons why the king almost immediately issued the mandate for the "deafforestation" was indeed his poverty. He was exceedingly pressed for money, and demanded aids and subsidies from all his leigemen to meet his very pressing needs.

* Miller.

Accordingly we find a writer saying, in the *Lives of the Berkeleys*, that: "At the general petition of the inhabitants of all those parts, especially of the men of the forest of Horwood, and for a sum of £150 in money, King Henry, in the twelfth or thirteenth yeare of his reigne, did disafforest all the towns, lands, and woods betweene Huntingford (where Berkeley Hundred and this lord's [de Gournays] lands parted) and the wood of Furzes, now called Kingswood, within four miles of Bristol, and soe from Severne side to the browes of the hills by Sodbury, excepting only Alleston Parke; and for the more assurance the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and some other lords, tooke particular patents of disafforestation of their proper manors."†

The following is a copy of the charter, which is in Latin, with a free translation below:

CHARTER OF DISAFFORESTATION.

Charter Roll 12. Hen. III. De deafforestatione quarundam partium comitatus Gloucestræ (A.D. 1228).

Henricus Rex &c., salutem. Sciatis nos concessisse pro nobis et heredibus nostris quod omnes bosci villæ et terræ quæ sunt inter boscum de Furcis prope Bristoll et Hunteneford et inter aquam de Saverne et La Rugeweya super cilium montis de Sobir sicut La Rugweye se extendit de Laundesdon usque ad aquam de Arlelegh sint imperpetuum deafforestatæ tam de venatione quam de omnibus aliis quæ ad forestam et ad forestarios pertinet in terris in boscis in planis in pratis in pasturis in viis et semitis in moris et mariscis in aquis et in omnibus locis excepto parco nostro de Alewestan sicut ultimo clausus fuit. Et quod omnes qui infra prædictas metas boscos habent ex illa parte Sabrinæ licet aliquo tempore antecessorum nostrorum et nostro fuerint in foresta boscos suos possint Claudere et parques inde facere, et de boscis suis capere dare vendere et essartare quando et quantum voluerint sine visu et omni contradictione forestariorum viridariorum et omnium ministrorum suorum cum omnimoda libertate chimini absque reclamatione contradictione quacumque et occasione et impedimento forstariorum. Et quod bosci prædicti et terræ prædictæ cum pertinentiis suis et essarta facta inde et facienda sint quæta imperpetuum de vasto regardo et visu forestariorum viridariorum et regardatorum. Volumus etiam et concedimus quod omnes homines ex orientali parte Sabrinæ inter prædictas metas manentes et hæredes ipsorum

† Smith's *Lives of the Berkeleys*, by Fosbrooke.

qui ad placita forestæ de Harewod summoneri consueverant et venire, sint quietii mperpetuum de sectis omnium placitorum ejusdem forestæ tam veterum quam novorum et omnimodis misericordis occasione illius forestæ capiendis et espeltamentis canum et de omnibus summonitionibus placitis querelis et occasionibus ad forestam illam et forestarios pertinentibus. Quare volumus et firmiter præcipimus quod prædicti bosci villæ et terræ prædictæ sint imperpetuum deafforestatæ tam de venatione quam de omnibus aliis quæ ad forestam pertinent et forestarios et quod prædicti homines sint quieti imperpetuum de sectis omnium placitorum ejusdem forestæ tam veterum quam novorum et de omnimodis misericordiis et espeltamentis canum et de omnimodis summonitionibus placitis querelis et occasionibus sicut prædictum est Testibus &c. Data per manum R. Cacistrensis episcopi apud Westmonasterium vi die Maii anno &c. xii^o.

(Translation.)

Concerning that part of the County of Gloucestershire disafforested (A.D. 1228).

King Henry, &c., his salutation. The king has for himself and his heirs granted that all the woods, towns, and lands, *quæ sunt inter*, which are between the wood of Furches, near Bristol and Hunteneford, and between the river Severne and Rudgway, on the hill of Sodbury, as the hill stretches itself to Lansdown to the River Arleleigh, be for ever disafforested—*tam de venatione quam de omnibus aliis quæ ad forestam, &c.* . . . excepting the park Alweston, lately inclosed. All persons who have hitherto had any woods within the forest may now use them as they please—make parks, fell and sell timber, and grub up as they please—without hindrance from the verderer, and chimiage or tolls for passing through the forest.—Dated 6th of May at Westminster, &c.

The sheriffs of Gloucester were ordered to make proclamation throughout the country that the forest had been disafforested.

This is a copy of the proclamation. On the reverse side it contains the names of the knights who had been summoned as a jury to perambulate the forest and give the bounds. These names are placed here below the charter of proclamation:

PROCLAMATION.

Charter 12 Hen. III. m. 6. (A.D. 1228). De deafforestatione quarundam partium comitatus Glouc.

Mandatum est vicecomiti Glouc: quod cartam domini Regis quam fieri fecit de deafforestatione boscorum villarum et terrarum quæ sunt inter

boscum be Furcis prope Bristoll et Hunteneford et inter aquam de Saverne and Rugeweye super cilium montis de Sobbiry sicut la Rugeweye se extendit de Lantesdon usque ad aquam de Arleleg in pleno comitatu suo legi et prædictos boscos villas et terras secundum metas in prædicta carta nostra contentas per totum bailivam suam clamara faciat et teneri deafforestaos. Teste Regi apud Westmonastenum, xx. die Junii.

Thomas de Hunteley.

Oliverus de Berkeley.

Richard de Eston.

Hugo Muscel.

Williamus de Sclocderes.

Williamus de Ielum.

Henricus Ruffus.

Richardus de Westbir.

Henricus Droes.

Richardus de Throham.

Gilbertus de Siston

Williamus de Hida.

According to this charter Kingswood ceased to be a forest, and was henceforth to be known as a royal chase only. But it is certain that the mandate was ignored, if not altogether set aside, by subsequent authorities. Dues were exacted, fines were imposed, and, down to the time of Charles the First, dormant powers were put in force to re-establish the ancient privileges of forest lands. Hence we find the terms "forest" and "chase" interchanged, and frequently side by side in the same documents, in the subsequent history of the place.

There is an impression brought home to one as he goes over the various events of the place that there was no *settled* authority, nor had there been for many years, to carry out the law or the mandates of the king; and, there is no doubt, this was the primary cause of bringing together so many freebooters, who claimed what remained of the forest, and which produced the nest of highwaymen and robbers so long a danger and a pest to Bristol. But, however, as early as the year 1261 there were some desperate highwaymen and robbers in the neighbourhood. Roger de Button—one of the Buttons from which the parish of Bitton takes its name—with others of the same place, broke into the abbey of Glastonbury and robbed the coffers, carrying away two hundred pounds' worth of treasures and the abbot's seal and the seal of the abbey, which they kept four years.*

We have been led to understand somewhat by the charter of

* Alb. Placit Rege Roll, 44 m. Hen. III. Rot., 12.

disafforestation of Henry III. the extent of forest land in the year 1228. It extended from the river Severn to Sodbury hills, and thence southwards to Lansdown. From the latter boundary it descended south-west to Fillwood, in Somersetshire. What is now Kingswood was its centre at that time. Seven centuries past, therefore, Kingswood, as a forest, was in its pristine beauty; while, from the first mention of it to the time when it gradually ceased to be such, embraces a period of history of nearly a thousand years.

There is then, I think, at least for the curious, who may be somewhat interested in this part of the county of Gloucester, ample evidence to gratify, if not wholly to satisfy, them in their consideration of the events connected with this place. Moreover:

“Why should this desert silent be?

For it is unpeopled? No;

Tongues I'll hang on every tree,

That shall civil sayings show:

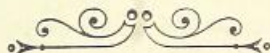
Some, how brief the life of man

Runs his erring pilgrimage,

That the stretching of a span

Buckles in his sum of age.”

As You Like It.—SHAKSPERE.



CHAPTER VII.

FROM EDWARD I. TO EDWARD III.

THE portion of the forest left as a chase lay in the parishes of S. Philip and S. Jacob, Stapleton, Mangotsfield, and Bitton—comprising less than 4,000 acres. It was still under the authorities of Bristol Castle, and the constable was the chief ranger, as in former times.

In the next reign, Edward I., 1273, the first year of his reign, the king commands the constable of the castle of Bristol that he allow to Hugh Malverne, keeper of the forest of Kingswood, the wages of 7½d. per day for himself and three footservants.

The next, 9th of Edward I., Thomas, Lord Berkeley, in consideration of his services in the wars, had liberty to hunt in the king's forest at Mendip and Kingswood. He was in most of Edward's battles as general. This lord had taken the field twenty-eight times; but at last was taken prisoner at the fatal battle of Bannock's-Burrough, in Scotland. He died in the 76th year of his age, 1321, and was buried with his wife in the archway between the vestry and upper end of the south aisle in St. Augustine's Monastery, Bristol.*

In the 17th year of Edward I., 1289, Peter de la Mare was constable of the castle of Bristol, and he renders an account of £23 9s. 10d. to the king in lieu of the prisage of beer, called Tyna Castri, belonging to the castle as part of its profits. This prisage arose as follows: The constables, who were in castles of barons or kings in former ages, domineered over the burgesses of towns and peasants in the country adjacent to their castles. In their steel armour they made raids in the neighbourhood, and captured hay, corn, beer, and other things under various denominations, to wit, of prise, tyne of castle, forage, &c. This

* Barret's Bristol, 253—254.

prise of beer, *prise cervivise*, for the use of the castle of Bristol was worth by the year 100 shillings, and was answered to the king as a yearly due. By custom these captures became familiar and rightful. But the burgesses of towns and the people were wont to complain of these captures to the king, who, in some charters made to towns, did among other franchises grant exemption from prise, tyne of castle, and such like captures.* Bristol Castle was not exempted from this tax.

It appears that a great destruction of deer took place about this time in Kingswood, probably because of the liberty extended to disafforestation. We need not be surprised, therefore, to find that on the 17th August, 1292, power was given to Walter Bello-Campo to inquire who are the malefactors in the chase at Kingswood who lately, *vie et armis*, drove and seized the game.†

Upon the beginning of the wars in Scotland, 1295, King Edward I. granted to Bartholomew Badlesmere the manor of Chilham, in Kent, and also made him governor of Bristol Castle and warden of Kingswood Forest for his gallant behaviour. He was summoned as a baron to Parliament. The next lord of his castle was Roger Bygood, son of Hugh, nephew and heir to the last earl. He had a grant from Edward of the castles of Bristol and Nottingham to hold for life, and on the 20th of Edward the First he surrendered them again.

In this king's reign the use of coal was forbidden, from the public annoyance caused by the smoke. Coal was dug in Kingswood Forest as early as the year 1200, and is accounted for in the taxes of the Great Pipe Rolls. Kingswood is not mentioned again till the dark days of Edward II.; there are, however, several other records of it in this king's reign, but not of much interest as pertaining to Kingswood.

In the third year of Edward II., 1309, the king granted to Bartholomew Badlesmere the castle and berton of Bristol, at the yearly rent of £210, and to the abbot and monks of Tewkesbury 60 shillings from the mill and 60 shillings to the same for the maintenance of a certain chantry within the castle, and 14s. and

* Barrett's History of Bristol.

† 2 (P. Rolls, 20 Ed. I.) *vide* His. Bit.)

3d. a year to the keeper of the forest of Kingswood. This is the second time he held the castle, having been made constable by Edward I., 1295. In the same reign "it was found no injury to the king's chase at Kingswood, near Bristol, if he granted leave to 'John de Saltmarsh'* to cut down and sell twenty acres of underwood here."† There were several law suits in connection with Saltmarsh, or, as he was known by his foreign name, Johnes Salso Marisco. He was an Irish judge, and became possessed of West Hanham manor. In 1287 he was plaintiff in a case of law to prove the title of his family to the property.

The next warden of the castle was Hugh de Spencer, 15th Edward II., 1321. His stipend was £210 a year, and to pay the forester of Kingswood 7½d. a day. This Hugh de la Spencer was one of the king's favourites, after Piers Gaveston, the Gasconian, a vicious companion of Edward's boyhood, was beheaded at Blacklow Hill, in Warwick. Both Hugh de la Spencer and his father, indeed, followed as the king's favourites; but, each having acted the same part as Gaveston, met with similar fates. Hugh, a young man of ancient family and splendid attainments, was special favourite of the king. On the king's fall, 1326, he fled to the west, where their patrimonial estates lay. The father of Hugh took refuge in Bristol, but the citizens inhumanly hanged the old earl outside the castle walls. Hugh took refuge in Hereford, and met with a similar fate. When the question for the deposition of the king was formally submitted to the public assembly at Westminster, 7th January, 1327, and had been answered with silence, Sir Thomas Blount, the steward of the royal household, then broke his wand of office, and Edward King became Edward Cærnorvan.

There is reason to believe that this Sir Thomas Blount was a brother to Edmund le Blund, or Blount, who married the daughter of Hugh de Vivon at Bitton.

Michael de Dune was keeper in 1325. He was accused of cutting down 100 oaks and acres of gorse without leave, and selling it to his own use. He was accused also with having taken

* "This J. de S. tried a case of law respecting the manor of Hanam."

† Ing. ad. g. Dampn. 14. Ed. II., Glouc.

six bucks and six does, and that the forest was not well looked after: wherefore the sheriff is ordered to take it into the king's hands; and on the 15th of December, 1325, the king granted the custody of the chase to Thomas de Bradestone for life during the king's pleasure, according to the accustomed wages, and by mandate (in the same patent) Dune, the late keeper, is to deliver up to Bradestone; and the constable of the castle is to pay the said Thomas the accustomed wages.*

It is generally believed that Edward's death was instigated by the dread of a popular revolution occurring in his favour, and which dread was ripening by the prevalent impression of the guilty intimacy between Roger Mortimer and the queen. Whether that were so or not I cannot tell: certainly the exiled barons were behind it. But the true cause, I think, lay in the low morality, the degrading examples, the cruel disposition of the king and his courtiers. Edward the Second was naturally cruel and malicious; he was the first who extorted confession by torture, and, singularly, he was himself tortured to death. He died by the insertion of a red hot iron into his person in such a manner as to render external marks of violence invisible. It is said that Roger Mortimer, on his own confession, ordered the commission of the deed. The keepers, Thos. Gourney and Will. Ogle, were his agents, and the queen was privy to it. And "certain other high personages" were supposed to be implicated, whose names do not appear. Ogle, who had fled beyond the seas, and was afterwards caught, was despatched on board ship lest he should reveal the whole party when brought to England. Indeed, there appears to have been a local conspiracy to kill the king. The feeling in the great western city was most hostile to him, and first vented itself on his favourites, as we have seen. Perhaps the poverty and sufferings of the times had something to do with it.

The inhabitants of this county suffered a great deal during Edward's reign. "The years 1314 and 1315 were darkened by famine. The royal table was but scantily supplied with bread. The poor fed on roots, horses, and dogs. The breweries were

* 1 Pat. Roll, 19 Ed. II., M. 9.

stopped to prevent the waste of grain. Plague followed the famine. The interest of money was 45 per cent. Ruin, pillage, and bloodshed filled the land. The king's favourites, the Spencers, son and father, were gibbeted—the father at Bristol, the son at Hereford," as before stated. It is recorded of this king, "that he spent his days in hunting and his nights in revelry." Hence the fact, possibly, of this forest being more fully noticed during this reign. There is, however, a deep mystery overhanging all the surroundings of Edward's last days. Terminating so tragically as it did in this county, and only a few miles from Kingswood (Kingswood and Micklewood Forests reached to Berkeley Castle, where the king was slain), after being moved from place to place and from castle to castle, designedly, it would appear that his death should be the result of revenge, somewhere central among the inhabitants of Gloucestershire. It is possible that the people, of whom Ogle and Gourney, the assassins, were but the instruments, knew more of the baser actions of the life of the king than is generally supposed. If it be so, a reason is furnished for the manner of his terrible death.

Following the reign of Edward II., a very distinct circumstance is recorded of Kingswood in the next king's time.

In the second year of Edward III., A.D. 1328, "a petition was presented to Parliament, at the suit of Joan-la-Ware, complaining that the manor of 'Bristolton' (Brislington), which then and always was without the boundary of the king's chase called Kingswood, and also that of Fillwood, had been included within the said chases or forests by the wardens thereof."

This petition satisfactorily sets at rest, I think, any objections arising out of what some persons may consider the insignificance of Kingswood as a forest; or, and consequently, its being improperly looked after. Brislington is about eight miles from Pucklechurch, lying across the river Avon, in the county of Somerset. Why the manor of Brislington, in Somersetshire, had been included within the boundary of Kingswood, a forest in Gloucestershire, there is no reason given. We find by the various records of the place, however, that it had always been included, before the disafforestation and before the Conquest. Originally, Kingswood and Fillwood, or the tract of land lying along both

sides of the river Avon from Bath to Bristol, and in the two counties, Somerset and Gloucester, was in Wessexia, and not in Mercia. The boundary of Wessex extended beyond and included Pucklechurch, the royal home.

It appears that at the disafforestation Fillwood had been aliened from Kingswood; or it was a part not included in the charter boundaries, and had not been disafforested; or else by some other act it had been included again, of which John de la Ware complains. From the statutes of Edward III., however, which were promulgated in the second year of his reign, and which also is the year of Joan-la-Ware above, we learn that Edward "afforested certain lands and disafforested others," confirming in the main the laws of his uncle and father. To this I have previously referred. It furnishes the reason. Thus we find that all subsequent notices of Kingswood indicate that the forest of "Fillwood"—a forest on the Somersetshire side of the river Avon—was always considered to be attached, or otherwise placed under the authorities of Kingswood, the rangership, or wardenship, being always appointed to the officers of the latter.

To this place, then, in the year A.D. 1328, did the forest of Kingswood extend. Later perambulations also show that the boundaries of Kingswood extended to the river Avon on its western side. Camden also intimated somewhat of its great extent. When describing Pucklechurch, he says: "Beyond this, near to Bristol, lieth Kingswood forest, formerly of much larger extent, but now drawn within the bounds of five thousand acres."

It is curious to note that not a single ancient relic of any building, village, ruin, or anything is found within this enclosure, while around it on every side are numerous ancient villages, whose history carry us back to Anglo-Saxon times.

In the year 1364 a commission was granted to Sir John Tracy, Robert Foulhurst, and William de Wrotham to enquire who were the disturbers of the peace, and had broken down the coverts and trees to the value of £1,000 in the chase. An order was issued to the sheriff at the same time to assist in the inquiry.*

Queen Philippa had the barton and chase granted to her, 1369;

* Pat. Roll, 38 Ed. III., m. 5.

a queen distinguished for her irreproachable character, and no less for her intrepidity, benevolence, and kindness where courage, love, and gentleness could be displayed.*

In the 45th year of Edward, 1371, the king commanded the keeper of Kingswood to allow the then Lord of Bitton, Hugh Blunt, to take, and cut, and carry away his wood and gorse and sea-coal growing within the bounds of his moiety of the manor, without payment of toll or other accustomed payments. This was a right continued and acted upon by the owners of Bitton, and which was afterwards construed into a license, or an excess and abuse of liberty. After Queen Philippa's death the king granted the chase and barton to Sir Robert Knowles, and in the next year the bailiff accounts for £10 8s. 4d. for timber and gorse sold in the chase of Kingswood. There is a similar entry for the next year.

In 1373 the king recites, "that Hugh de Seagrave had surrendered his grant of the constableness of Bristol and keepership of the 'fforest of Kingswood and Ffillwood,' granted the said kéeper'ship of the said fforest to John de Thorpe, Knt., to hold for his life with the like wages, fees, and profits as the said Hugh might have."†

During the next year, 1374, information was laid before the king of a very serious nature concerning the destruction of and trespassing after the game in the forest. Very many persons, "foresters and others, had entered the chase and freewomen of Kingswood and Ffillwood without license, and taken and carried away fish, hares, conies, pheasants, &c., and wild beasts of the chase, and that divers oppressions had been committed." The king, therefore, granted a commission to John de Foxle and other justiciaries to enquire, and the sheriff was also to assist in the inquiry, &c. This commission found many trespassers in the chase, hunting and killing the deer without license, for which they were fined. They found, also, that three oaks had been ordered by Privy Seal for making a new lodge in the chase, and that one Thomas Morton had taken them away for his own use.

* Pipe Roll, 46 Ed. III., 1372.

† Pat. Note, 1373, p. 2, m. 32.

They also found that the said Thomas kept two horses carrying wood for sale in Knowles' time, and they went on daily. Other transgressors were Hugh Wernall, who killed four conies; Robert Godwin cut gorse worth forty pence. The beast of the chase also suffered much by the destruction of the gorse. One Morton, lately a forester, had unwarrantably cut bushes and an oak, and trees to the value of 100s., and had carried them away and sold them. But the greatest transgressor was one Mathew de Button, who lived at Barr's Court, in East Hanham. Respecting the latter, de Button, I am obliged to the venerable Vicar of Bitton for all these particulars, who wrote me before he died that it had taken him forty years to get together the particulars of this family of de Buttons.

An inquest was held in Bristol Castle, before a jury of twelve, on Monday, the third week in Lent, 1374, and they found that Mathew de Button had been freely killing the game for several years :

1365—On the Monday after the Feast of St. Lawrence he killed two does.

„ On Sunday next after Feast of Nativity, Beatae Mariæ, one sorrel and doe.

„ Thursday next after same, in company with John Crook, he killed two does.

1366—Friday before the Purification of B. V., killed two does and one fawn.

„ Thursday before the Feast of St. Peter, killed two does.

„ Between the aforesaid Feast and Feast of St. Michael's, the same Mathew, and John Crook and their servants killed six does, four sorrels, and three sorrels.

„ Also on Thursday before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, he killed two does.

1367—On Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord, the said Mathew and his servants killed three does, three precketts, (two old bucks), and two fawns.

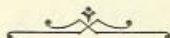
1368—Thursday before the Feast of S. Margaret, one doe.

1369—On the Vigil of Purification B. M., he killed two does.

1370—And lastly, he killed, on the Monday before the Feast of St. James, one sorrel, in the year of the king, forty-four.

And the jury say that the said Mathew and John are common malefactors of game in the king's chase. The jury met again on the next day at the same place, and a warrant was issued to the sheriff to arrest the culprits the next day, when it was reported that Mathew had been taken by Richard Scott-Stout, but as they did not appear they were amerced, and the sheriff was ordered to arrest on the following Friday. The justiciars met at Bitton, when the sheriff returned that the said Mathew was taken by Roger Mare and John West, who bring him into court. He threw himself on the mercy of the king for the charges laid against him, and is committed to prison until the justiciars consult the council of the king." *

What became of Button after is uncertain; whether he was tried, or died in prison, or was executed, there is nothing to show. It is generally supposed that he was hanged. The execution of such a person must have caused a great sensation in the neighbourhood. He was the son and heir to Lord John de Button, Knight, nephew of Thomas de Button, Bishop of Exeter. There is a short deed extant dated Hanham, 23rd Edward III., 1369, with Mathew de Button's seal attached.† It is a lease of a tenement at Goldwell, a place lying on the south of Stouts Hill, near which place was a gate entering the forest. Goldwell was a noted public well, near which one of the Pearsall family built a very fair residence in later times.



* *Vide* Parish His. of Bitton.

† Assize Roll. Pub. Record Off. 23rd Ed. III.

CHAPTER VIII.

FROM RICHARD II. TO HENRY VII.

THROUGHOUT the reign of Richard the Second, and for many years onward we get but few interesting notices of Kingswood, excepting the appointment of the keeper or the constable of the Barton and castle therewith. We shall, however, notice each document consecutively according to its proper date. It would seem that at this period—more than fifty years—nothing material occurred respecting forests to have been worthy of notice. At the close of it, also, circumstances were such as to render it almost impossible that any particulars whatever should have come to us respecting places which ordinarily do not claim much attention, or at least only as they are in connection with some exceptional transaction. Yet these fifty years were full of marked events. Richard II. quelled thirty thousand rioters—putting down a trio of ruffians, Wat Tyler, Ball, and Jack Straw; “Præmunire” was also enacted. Wycliffe and the Lollards arose, and Henry IV. succeeding saw the first martyr (“Sawtre”) for Protestantism. The death of Hotspur at home, and the battle of Agincourt abroad, advanced the next king, Henry V., to the throne of France. Then followed the “woman soldier” and “French deliverer,” Joan of Arc. Henry VI. succeeding, the “Wars of the Roses” began. Six great battles were fought. The one great and burning question which was then discussed and fiercely contended for in every house in England was the question of “right to the throne.” In the matter of forest notes, therefore, this period of history is very barren.

A commission was issued to Thomas Broke, Maurice Berkeley, and others, 1392, to make inquiry by inquest, and to report on the great destruction of vert and game having taken place in

the chase of Kingswood.* This commission was repeated 20th Richard II., 1397.† These are the only notices I find of the forest in this king's reign.

In Henry the Fourth's reign we have few patent Rolls. In 1402 the king granted to Edward, Duke of York, the manor and barton of Bristol, with all proper franchises, liberties, &c., to hold to him and his heirs male in lieu of 400 marks.

In 1407 a mandate was issued by Henry IV. in favour of John Blount. Also in 1413, by patent, Hugh Lutteral was appointed constable and keeper for life. He was a man of great worth, and was honourably employed by three successive kings of England.‡ Henry died 1413.

There is only a scrap of information I can find in Henry, the next king's time, Henry V., and this of a doubtful source. It appears by an old MSS. book of F. Creswick's, that in the third year of Henry V., 1415, the king granted the same pension, with the same beneficial clauses, to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, "in taylor."§

We come now to the reign of Henry VI. and find many documents and much fuller information respecting this place. The first is a patent, when the king grants to the Earl of Warwick, Richard, the constablership of the castle of Bristol and keeper of the forest of Kingswood for life; and on January 16th, 1443, the king recites a former grant of the constablership of the castle and town of Bristol, and the custody of the forest of Bristol, to John Saint Loe, and Nicholas his son, to hold them from the death of Richard, Earl of Warwick, now grants it in fee, with several fees, out of which several officers were to be paid out of the revenues of Bristol, as fully as Sir Hugh Lutteral, deceased; and by the same patent be granted *primagium et herbagium* within the forest, and all woodfalls and dead wood now and always for his own use, and a customary called "comyn woodin" in Kingswood, also the fishery at Stapleton.||

* 15 Rich. Roll 8.

† 20 Rich. Roll 4.

‡ Pat. Rolls, 14th Hen. IV. m. 22.

§ Old MSS., quoted by Ellacombe.

|| Pat. Rolls, Hen. VI. 1443.

From the inquisition made after the death of John St. Loe we find that all persons who broke the soil for purposes of digging coal, clay, or sand, had to obtain first a license from the constable of the castle, and at a rent to be agreed upon; and that all the appointments of officers of the forest belonged to the constable also. Next, we find Henry, Duke of Warwick, in possession of Barton, with the appurtenances in Gloucestershire granted by the king, 1445. It is next granted to Henry Shentlo, whose son retained the office for fifteen years.* In 1457 the constable of the castle was ordered to deliver Thirty oaks to the Priory of Bristol. Next we find the king granting the Vil of Bristol, with the constablenesship of the castle and the keeper of the forest of Kingswood, to Edward, eldest son of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, Earl of March, for his life. The next year he became Edward IV.

Edward IV., the last patentee, succeeding to the crown, on the second of January, 1462, the first of his reign, he granted the constablenesship of the castle and the custody of the forest of Kingswood, to Sir Humphrey Stafford, of Hooke, for life. The office remained in this family for many years, passing from Humphrey Stafford of Hooke to the Staffords of Southwick. At this time Edward IV. came into this county, and fought the battle of Tewkesbury. The Duke of Somerset, Earl of Devonshire, and other noblemen, who were firm adherents of Henry VI., having gathered a large army at Bristol, marched out of the city to Sodbury in order to fight the king. On the king's approach they moved towards Gloucester, and finally fought at Tewkesbury. This battle firmly established Edward on the throne.

Margaret of Anjou fled for her life. Her son was slain; and Henry, in all probability, met with a bloody death in the Tower. It is curious that during this period of the Civil Wars, each of the rival kings of the "Red and White Roses" should have had a representative warden in the forest of Kingswood; and, also, that a most decisive battle should have been fought for them so near to it.

Edward was the people's and not a party king. He was the

* Fine Rolls, P. B. M.

first king of England who stooped to marry a subject; and to qualify herself for this regal dignity, the royal bed and escutcheon, his bride is said to have carried "six coats of arms" of her maternal and paternal descent. No other changes appear to have taken place in the wardenship of Kingswood during Edward's time, and also a subsequent period of two years. The Duke of Gloucester, thirsting for power, procured the death of the rightful heir to the throne, obtaining the crown for himself, 1483. Two years later, 1485, he was slain in battle on Bosworth Field. "The Duke of Buckingham, who resided at Thornbury, also, it is said, intended to exalt himself to the Crown, and was indicted at Bristol Castle for the same, Sir Anthony Pointz, who was afterwards appointed custodian of Kingswood Forest, being one of the jury who tried him."* The Earl of Richmond, Henry VII., triumphed at this battle, and obtained the crown. He married Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV., uniting the "Red and White Roses."

By an inquisition taken 1478, it was found that "George, Duke of Clarence and Isabella, his wife, were seized in the demean as of fee in right of the said Isabella at her death, December, 1474, of the manor of Barton, next issue—leaving issue Edward Plantagenet and others—that he survived her, and held the premises and rents of £60 a year. The duke died 18th February last—and that Edward Plantagenet was his son and next heir to the said Isabella, three years old."

The unfortunate Edward V., succeeding at this time, 1483, and the brief reign of Richard the Third, I find nothing of importance to record of Kingswood Forest. Edward had perished in the Tower; and Richard, after two years' reign, from 1483 to 1485, died, it is said, fighting like a wild beast at bay, till at last he fell covered with wounds. His wickedness and cupidity won him friends such as were only like himself. These were chiefly, Radcliff, Catesby, and Lovell, who carried out the king's designs. From Richard's badge or crest being a white boar the following couplet arose:

"The Cat, the Rat, and Lovell the dog,
Rule all England under the Hog."

* Pat. Rolls, *temp.* Hen. VIII.

Richard was buried at Grey Friars, in Leicester, but at the dissolution of Henry VIII., his bones were taken from their resting-place, and his coffin used as a drinking trough for horses at an Inn in Leicester.

In the time of Henry VII. we find the custody was next given to one of the Knights of the Garter who had greatly distinguished himself in the king's service. In the same year this worthy knight was also "appointed constable of Bristol Castle at twenty pounds per annum." The "patent" for Kingswood reads thus:—"Grant, for life, to Giles Daubeney, Knight, the custody of the Forests of Kyngeswode and Fillewode, Cos. Glouc. and Somerset."* According to these and other grants following, appointing almost at the same time several officers for life, it is evident there were several grades of office in respect to the control of forests, the chiefest of which, it seems, would be held or conferred as a mark of honour. Of their functions and number I am not acquainted; these particulars being generally given in works upon forest laws. Giles Daubeney, Knight, had proved a staunch friend of Henry VII. He is said to have been present at Bosworth Field, and afterwards to have shown himself to be worthy of the great honour which had been conferred upon him by the king in making him knight. In 1498 he commanded the king's forces against Perkin Warbeck, the pretender, and his Cornish army in Taunton Dean. He was a descendant of a very ancient family who were followers of the Conqueror. The ancestors lie at South Petherton, where the family had an estate for many centuries. Sir Giles ordered his body to be buried in St. Peter's, at Westminster. A Somersetshire writer describes this family as "a grand old family, who were benefactors to their town, benefactors to the Church, supporters of their Sovereign, and deserving to be held in loving remembrance by everybody.

"Their swords are rust !

Their bodies are dust !

Their souls are with the saints, we trust !"

Also, in his first year, 24th September, 1485, he granted for life to Thomas Fulbrook, one of the yeomen of the guard, the offices

* Pat. Rolls, 2 m. 25. (1) No. 322.

of the Forester of the Forest of Kingswood, county of Gloucester, and Fulwood (Fillwood), county of Somerset, and the Rangership of the same.* Whether Thomas Fulbrook retained these offices long as principal or as a subordinate servant does not appear.

The manor of Barton Regis, at this time, belonged to Anne, Countess of Warwick, and in the third year of Henry III., 1487, she granted it, with the hundred, to the king and the heirs of his body. In the same year, Hilary Term, a fine was levied of the same premises by the said countess.

Lord Maurice Berkeley was ranger of the forest 24th Henry VII., 1508, granted by letters patent from the king.† This Lord Berkeley built his house at Yate with timber from the forest of Kingswood. According to Fosbroke, on the surrender of his letters patent, they were not found sufficient, and he had a new grant in the next reign, Henry VIII.



* Mat. loc His. Hen. VII. b. 2,076, B. M.

† Fosbroke.

CHAPTER IX.

HENRY VIII. TO JAMES I.

HENRY VII. died in 1509; his second son, Henry VIII., succeeding him. A large number of notices of Kingswood have come down to us from this king's reign, of which the following are the most interesting:—"Sir Maurice Berkley succeeded in the keepership" in the third year of this king. The fees of this and other places bearing date immediately after the death of Henry VII., this document is dated from Greenwich, and is as follows, viz.: "Grant, for Sir Maurice Berkley, to be keeper of the Forest of Kingeswode and Fylewode, Gloucester and Somerset, with sevenpence halfpenny a day out of the fee farm of Bristol; and steward of the lordship of Portbury, Somerset, with £10 a year, from 25th Oct., 24, Henry VII. Greenwich, 8th July, 3, Henry VII.)* Also, "18th June, 17th, Henry VIII., the custody given to Francis Poyntz, esquire, for the body of the Forests of Kingswood and Fillwood." In 1529, Sir Anthony Poyntz succeeded to the keepership, both to "Kyngeswoodde" and to "Fyllewodde," with the same fees, "out of fee farm, vice S. M. Berkley," and of "Sodbury Park, Gloucester, with herbage, panniage, and 2d. a day." This is the nobleman referred to above, the Sir Anthony who tried the Duke of Buckingham for his assumption to the kingship. Dugdale tells us that the Pointz family in Gloucestershire were descendants of Sir Hugh Pointz, of Curry Mallet. Sir Hugh married the daughter of William Mallet, who came into the country with William the Conqueror, and who held the manor of Curry by the service of twenty knights' fees. According to Camden, the right line of this family failed in its eldest branches, but he says

* Pat. Rolls., Hen. VIII., B.M.

there were several knights of that name in the county of Gloucester in 1607. Richard Pointz followed "Sir Anthony at a salary of 200 marks." This gentleman is said to have "sold it to Henry, Lord Berkley, who accordingly had a grant for life from the Crown." The salary of the ranger at this time was £2 8s. 10½d. per year.*

The king, in the thirty-fifth year of his reign, 1543, by the authority of Parliament, granted to Queen Catherine, in lieu of dower, the manor, hundred, &c., of Barton, part of the possessions of the Earl of Warwick, and all forests, chases, woods, and property thereto belonging, and all money for wood sales from Lady-day, 1542. The next year, the surveyor accounted for the sale of shrubs in the Forest of Kingswood, £8 2s. 8d.; and bark to divers persons, 5s.: the sellers had a fee for the sales.

Some writers suppose that Kingswood Forest was parcelled out into districts for coal mines at this time, being held by lease from the Crown. Of this I find no evidence. Nevertheless, industry received a stimulus in every direction during the reign of Henry the Eighth, and as almost every place came in for a share of governmental consideration at that time, Kingswood may have been, at least a part of it, parcelled out in the manner described. It would appear that Kingswood remained very much as it had been in the past until Edward VI. sold it to the Earl of Pembroke, 1564, when great changes took place.

During the time of Henry the Eighth a list of noble custodians were appointed over Kingswood, four knights and two other gentlemen of equally good position being granted that office in his reign.

Henry enjoyed great popularity. His father left him an enormous treasure when he came to the throne, and no king ever began to reign under more prosperous circumstances. For two years after his coronation all went well. But Henry's pleasures and extravagance vexed the holy soul of the Bishop of Winchester, who introduced the Dean of Lincoln to the king in order, as the bishop thought, to influence the king the other way. The dean (Wolsey), however, instead of using his influence as the

* Pat. Rolls., 1, M. 33.

bishop wished, only employed it to flatter the vanities and follies of the king, and to promote his own advancement. Henry was influenced to make war on France. He defeated the French at the "Battle of Spurs." Then followed the battle of Flodden Field in England. Marvellous stories are told us of the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," and other wonders which took place in France. Returning home, Henry had the Duke of Buckingham beheaded, to which we have referred. He was accused of "treasonable expressions against the king," but his real crime was that he had offended the cardinal, Wolsey. The cardinal was a subtle, crafty, religious varlet. Of him Shakespere writes that—

"He was a man
Of an unbounded stomach, ever ranking
Himself with princes; one that by suggestion
Tied all the kingdom; simony was fair play;
His own opinion was his law: i' the presence
He would say untruths; and be ever double,
Both in his words and meaning; he was never,
But where he meant to ruin, pitiful:
His promises were, as he then was, mighty;
But his performance, as he now is, nothing.
Of his own body he was ill, and gave
The clergy ill example."

At the dissolution and suppression of the monasteries, Henry found himself in possession of enormous property, a large proportion of which he gave to many of his favourites and to his most substantial supporters. Besides ecclesiastical settlements and other arrangements making provision for bishops, deans, prebendaries, &c., many knights received large estates—the priories and monasteries being either pulled down or converted into palatial residences by them. Hence probably the Berkeleys, of whom is Sir Maurice Berkeley, one of the knights above, "received a large gift from the Crown—consisting of the monastery of Bruton and also the parsonage and the manor of North Cruham, with other lands belonging to the monastery." The Priory of Bruton is still a good substantial house, and the inhabitants there point it out as once being the residence of the

Berkeleys, six or seven of whom lie buried at the church beyond. The Berkeleys, however, were always very rich; Thomas, Lord Berkeley, and others owning several manors in Henry the Fifth's time. Many other families besides the Berkeleys received similar gifts; indeed, the basis of their handsome fortunes and lordly power was laid in Henry's kingly gifts. The amount of Church lands which the king held, directly or indirectly, by the "statute of uses" was really prodigious. In the year 1727, they let for the large amount of "six millions sterling!" What must their value be now, a hundred and fifty years later?

A large proportion of this property ought certainly to have been appropriated to the good and for the secular uses of the nation, from which it had evidently been clandestinely wheedled by a long course of subtle clerical device. Once in the hands of Henry, however, he first appropriated to himself the lion's share of the spoil, and then, as Andrew Bell observes, "threw the rest to the hungry pack of courtiers of parasites, noble and ignoble, who were as ready to lick his feet as they were to tear each other in pieces at his slightest sign or nod." Many of the proudest of the English families and of titled nobility laid the foundation of their princely fortunes at that time. Yet, strange to say, and it seems hardly credible, if history did not prove the fact, that "notwithstanding the hoard which Henry inherited from his father, and the enormous spoil wrenched from the Church, he died a miserably poor man, leaving an empty exchequer to his son and encumbered with numerous heavy debts." Lord Berkeley, the last of the above-named wardens, retained the custody of Kingswood until his death, after which it remained some time vacant. It afterwards fell to Queen Catharine, who demised her possession to Henry Braine by indenture, dated March 2nd, 1547, for twenty-one years, and this, by the auditor's particulars, is certified to be all the lands the king had in the Barton in the right of the said queen.

The last record brings us into the reign of Edward VI. After Queen Catherine demised the Barton and Kingswood to Henry Braine, the office of Wardenship and Constable of the Castle remained in abeyance for eighteen years. It was during this vacancy, and the unsettled state of things following immediately

after Henry the Eighth's death, that the production of coals, in all probability, began to be a subject of consideration with the authorities of Kingswood. Reference to this and the granting of a certain "lease" for the cutting of slate stones and coal, &c., being the substance of some law proceedings during a part of that time. Coals had been dug in Kingswood for very many years, prior to this date, under the name of sea-coal, but, it appears, not in any quantity. A variety of causes now directed attention to this matter, with what results will be seen.

The vacancy in the rangership of Kingswood doubtless continued through "the proclamation which had been issued by Edward VI.," and which was the cause of much disturbance in the west. The king, then, only thirteen years of age, by the advice of his uncle, Edward, Earl of Somerset, Lord Protector, and the rest of his council, put out a proclamation against "certain men who had taken in and lately enclosed such commons, fields, and other lands as were lying open, and had turned them into pastures, parks, and other uses, for their own benefit, to the great hindrance and almost undoing of many poor men." The king ordered all who had thus enclosed any such lands to lay them open again by a day assigned, under certain penalties. The good intent of this proclamation, we are told, was not regarded; very few obeyed it. Whereupon the poor people, "thinking that they should be indemnified by the king's proclamation, rose in many places in a tumultuous manner, breaking down the enclosures and fences, and were only put down after a large number of them had been slain." The riots occurred chiefly in the West of England, in various places from Gloucester to Cornwall. A large number of rioters were whipped, imprisoned, and hanged, and many of the poor suffered very great hardships. The suppression of the religious houses had dried up nearly all their sustenance; and certain acts of Edward must have galled them almost to madness. Edward enacted a law that all beggars should be slaves to any who apprehended them, and that the masters should be allowed to put iron collars about their necks to their more effectual humiliation.

At this time the king, April 27th, 1564, in consideration of £8,440 7s. 2½d. granted to the Earl of Pembroke and William

Clarke, and heirs of the earl, the lordship and manor of Barton Regis, near Bristol, and everything thereto belonging. By virtue of this grant the Earl and Clarke were seized of the manor and hundred; also they were to hold courts as their predecessors had done, but in respect to the manor and hundred only.

From this last sale to the Earl of Pembroke and Clarke, the Forest of Kingswood was separated entirely from Barton Regis and the Castle of Bristol. The earl never claimed the chase, nor was there any mention of forest or chase amongst all the franchises granted to him. The next owner was Sir Maurice Dennys, and by the inquisition post-mortem of this lord he had no possessions in the chase. During the next reign, Elizabeth's, we find a new departure. In the meantime, the days of Edward are full of sadness. Poverty and destitution reigns on every hand. The law restricts the sale of certain goods. The prices of provisions and the hire and hours of labour were also fixed by law. Many of the Roman Catholic priests, some of whom were highly educated, were reduced to beggary. Indeed, for a few years the heart of the nation must have resembled a suppressed volcano, which, every moment becoming more and more heated, is continually accumulating greater forces for destruction, presently belches them out in angry rage, destroying everything within its compass. Such was the state of feeling in England when, at the age of sixteen, the silver cord of the youthful heart of Edward the Sixth was broken. Silently the nation's passion and religious prejudice rose to their highest pitch; angry clouds blackened the political horizon; a night of intense darkness and sorrow was near. A dreadful gloom settled upon every countenance—when, like a flash from a thunderbolt, light from the martyr's fire struck across and lit up the midnight sky, revealing the awful and perilous condition in which the country had been plunged. A storm of blood was at hand. A new monarch had arisen, and was seen advancing towards and clutching after the Crown. The moment came when it fell into her hands, and stood on her brow. The sluices of passion and religious bigotry were immediately thrown wide open, and men—human bloodhounds—let loose, which getting scent of their prey, and thirsting for their victim's life, rested not, until with a

fiendlike pleasure they brought to bay their quarry; and then saw lying at their feet the lifeless and mangled body of the hapless lady, Jane Grey. And thus inhumanly, like excited animals which reckon only of thirst and quaff on the dying game, these rush anew at further destruction and presently carry fire and sword throughout the land; imprisonment, the stake, the block, the rack, the gibbet, and all forms of cruel suffering followed. But enough! Let me draw the veil over this horrible page of history, and blush to think it were ever possible in Christian England.

On the death of Maurice Dennys, who died 1565, the Barton Regis passed to Thomas Chester, Esq., of Bristol, who died, seized of the manor and hundred, 28th Elizabeth, 1585. In his post-mortem inquest no mention is made of Kingswood Chase: but, it is said, although it was not mentioned, Kingswood was afterwards *foisted in*, and the family claimed a moiety of the soil of the chase.

It is from this point in the history of the chase that Chester and others set up as claimants to the entire area of the chase: and the chase was mapped out into divisions, to which they attached their own names and the technical term "Liberty"—a name applied to the right which certain lords of manors had for cutting wood only in the forest. Mere stones and bounds, also, were set up in the forest by these several claimants in the year 1599, to mark these liberties which they claimed, and subsequently we find them in possession of the entire king's chase.

It is evident from all the trials at law, which were very numerous, that almost all the owners of liberties in the forest who were the first claimants had no lawful right to them whatever. Chester was indicted, 1598-9, for an *intrusion* on the king's soil in the chase, and felling 1,000 oaks (rather a good clearance), and a trial at bar ensued in the 4th of James, 1606, when it was found by evidence on both sides for the king's title. Henry, Lord Berkeley, also set up a claim for 1,000 acres in the chase, as belonging to his manor at Bitton, and "he set up bounds there, and allowed Mr. Chester, who had got his manor of Barton, to intrude and set up bounds."*

* 4 Jac., 1606.

ever, of Captain Fitzgerald, Player, and others, reveal to us to what extent these claimants had gone, how they set the Government at defiance, and at last conquered. King James, it appears, by indenture, on the 11th of March, 1608, granted to one Captain Fitzgerald, of Rathshillarth, Co. Kildare, Ireland, in consideration for his long and faithful services, for the term of sixty-one years from the 26th of January before this date, all coal works, coal pits, and mines of sea-coal, stone, coke, and slate to be found within the Forest of Kingswood, in Co. Gloucester and Somerset, for the yearly rent of £40, with a covenant not to hurt the timber, wood, or underwood. But among the state papers I find he was prevented from going on with his works, and they appear to have been speedily stopped, for the proprietor petitions the king against "some defendants" with whom he had been to law and "got judgment, but was still withheld from proceeding with his works."* These defendants were, no doubt, Berkeley, Player, Lacy, Martin, and others who had apportioned to themselves liberties in the chase. These men "denied that the soil belonged to his majesty the king." This lawsuit, in favour of Fitzgerald and the king, was carried on *for twelve years*, but Fitzgerald never got his works. The following entry indicates somewhat the nature of the troubles in which he was placed:—"March, 1610. Captain Edward Fitzgerald to Salisbury. Is ill, and cannot attend him. Begg favour of his petition concerning his coal mines in Forest of Kingswood, county of Gloucester, granted him by the king, but kept from him by the defendants, in spite of a verdict against them."

In the Exchequer Queen Remembrancer Records † Gloucester, is this record: Sir. T. Coventry, Attorney-General, plaintiff, *v.* Richard Berkeley, Esq., Sir Theo. Newton, knight, and William Player, defendants. The bill sets out that the forest of Kingswood has been seized by the sovereign time out of mind, as their demesne as of fee, in the right of the Crown of England, and of all grounds, woods, and soil, and hath from time to time appointed officers for preservation of the game of the said forest, with certain fees for executing the same.

* Printed Rolls, B.M.† *Vide* His. Parish of Bitton.

Accounts were rendered of the profits coming and arising therefrom, that is, of the woods and mines therein, as by divers several records of the Court of Exchequer most fully and plainly appear. The bill also mentions that information was heretofore exhibited in the Exchequer by Sir Edward Coke, Attorney-General, *versus* Sir Richard Berkeley and William Chester for committing spoils of wood in certain parts of the forest grounds, to which the defendants pleaded not guilty, whereupon issue was joined, and judgment given for the king.

Notwithstanding the said judgment, the Lord Stafford, Lord Berkeley, Sir Henry Billingsley, Sir Rowland Lacy, and Sir Theodore Newton, knight, Richard Barkeley, Thomas Chester, William Player, Langley Weston, Esqrs., being seized of divers manors and lands *adjoining* to the said forest, by colour thereof, and by reason that "Meres," battalls, and boundarics between the proper soil and freehold, of them the said defendants, and the said forest are much defaced and obscured, do unjustly challenge, claim, and share amongst themselves all the king's soil, ground woods, and other profits within the said forest, intending to make total "*disesison*" of the king, and did about fifty years since enter into the said forest, upon the possession of the king, and hath ever since, and yet doth take the profits, by felling and cutting of the several woods growing and being within the said forest, and by digging of divers coal mines, coal pits, stone pits, and slate pits, and converting the same to their own use, the said profits amounting to the yearly value of £4,000. They also sent their beasts, sheep, and all manner of cattle into the said forest as freely as if it were their own proper inheritances, without yielding any accompt, or paying any rent for the same.

The Attorney-General, therefore, desired that a subpoena might be directed to the said defendants to appear in the Court of Exchequer, and to declare what parts of the forest they claimed, and by what title they take the same.*

"On the 10th April, 1609, the Duke of Lenox, the king's uncle, came from Bath to Bristol, whom the sheriffs with two

* Ellacombe's His. Bitton.

hundred horse met in Kingswood, and brought to Sir John Young's house, the Bishop of the city then dwelling there, where the Duke lodged that night. At his entry afterwards into the city an oration was made unto him in Latin. Thirty pieces of ordnance were discharged in the Marsh." "On the Wednesday following he again rode to Kingswood, accompanied by the sheriffs."* Why the Duke of Lenox and the sheriffs should have gone over again to Kingswood the next day I cannot understand; unless their curiosity had been excited by the colliers and the coal mines of the neighbourhood. Had it been for the purposes of hunting I think the writer would have said, as there were plenty of deer in the forest at that time. But as a lease had been granted by the king just at that time for the cutting of coals in Kingswood, and which had created some excitement in the neighbourhood, it is highly probable that the king's uncle went over to view this interesting district.

It appears that a very careful survey was made of the forest about the year 1610, for a very excellent map has come down to us from that year. I suspect it was drawn for the Fitzgerald lease and covenant about that date. It is not like others divided into liberties. An earlier survey was made in the 35th Henry VIII., 1543, by John Heneage, Esq., a copy of which was in the British Museum.† The forest was then returned as being ten miles in compass, besides the manors belonging to the lords of Siston, Bitton, and other places near. A survey was also ordered to be made during the troubles of Fitzgerald, and was executed under the commission of John Nordon, 1616. This survey reveals the state of things in that year.

The late Handel Cossham had a copy of the original map, 1610, procured from the Chesters when he bought the estate.

About this time Mr. Player made himself very unpopular to the Bristol citizens, as he seems to have monopolized all the coal trade, and caused much misery among the poor people. They, therefore, petitioned the mayor and authorities of Bristol to

* Seyer's Mem. Bristol.

† I have been unable to find this map to copy. That of 1610 is the next succeeding.

interfere on their behalf. In this petition they complain "that wood was very dear and not to be obtained; and coal had been a great benefit to them because of the price—but Arthur Player, now inhabitant of the city of Bristol, of a gredy desyer of gayne to hymself, hath taken into his hands all the coal pyttes in Kingswood . . . and hath cut and diminished the sacks" . . . "for some special gayne to hymself." *

A sister of the king's wife, Queen Anne, daughter of Frederick, King of Denmark and Norway, visited Kingswood on her way to Bristol, the 4th of June, 1613. A sham battle for her amusement took place on the river at the latter city, when a large number of barrels of red liquid, the colour of blood, were dashed to pieces on the decks and squirted on the men to represent the "aweful carnage."

The Earl of Salisbury, Robert Cecil, to whom Fitzgerald appealed respecting his lease, died in the year 1614. It is in connection with this noble earl that the first definite statement in respect to the granting of leases for the purposes of coal mines in Kingswood occurs.

As already observed, coal mines may have existed at an earlier date at Kingswood, but, supposing this hypothesis be correct, it could not have been many years prior to this time. It is with the latter two names only that we can fix any definite point of certainty, there being no other creditable data apparently on record. The exciting circumstances which were almost immediately produced—in the following year; the special survey of the forest itself; a great commotion of the colliers therein; and a petition from Bristol to the Government in respect thereto, all show with what interest and attention this apparently new enterprise was being pursued.

Immediately the death of Cecil, the Earl of Salisbury, took place, a great change was imminent in almost all the conditions of the country. Cecil had adhered mainly to the Elizabethan policy. The preservation of peace throughout all Europe was due chiefly to the firmness of his Ministry. But after the dissolution of Parliament had taken place in 1614, a disastrous

* Harl. MS. 63.

change followed. The king, persisting in a policy with regard to Spain, trampled English honour in the dust. Indeed to carry out his desire in that respect, James sought to make everything bend to his will. Accordingly, new and young courtiers, no matter how base their lives, were favoured and advanced to be titled lords. Grey hairs were disregarded; and the multitude of councillors, in whose opinion is much wisdom, were despised and scorned. The great ministers of state were vexed, set at defiance, and browbeaten by favourites. George Villiers, a handsome young adventurer, was entrusted with the English policy, and created Marquis and Duke of Buckingham. It is said the king "loved to loll on the neck of young Villiers and slobber his cheek with kisses."

But all the coming statecraft and despotic power which James and his unrighteous favourites managed to wield tended only in one direction—namely, to deepen the gulf they had already made, into which the whole superstructure, together with the foundation of the Stuart family, would eventually fall, and finally be overthrown.

Immediately on the death of Cecil a change was made in Kingswood. The king granted the keepership to Sir John Chaworth, vacant by the decease of Lord Berkeley.† In the following year, 1615, he ordered a survey to be made of the forests of Kingswood and Fillwood, under the superintendence of John Norden. This was duly carried out, and an entry recording the same, undated, follows. Of this survey I here give a copy:—

COPY OF THE EXECUTION OF A COMMISSION ISSUED FOR THE SURVEY OF
KINGSWOOD, BY JOHN NORDEN, SURVEYOR:

As touchinge Kingswood, I have taken the plot thereof, and of everie division clayme within the same, all approved by the depositions of divers antient borderers uppon the said forest in everie parte, which claymes doe swallowe up the whole forest, not allowinge his Majestie the breadth of a foote. The timber, wood bushes, soyle, coale mines, and all other profittes altogether carryed from his Majestie by unknown rights.

His Majestie is only allowed herbage for his deere. But everie

† State Papers, B. M.

pretended owner, in his division, cuts downe, consumes, and take the profittes of all kinds of verte, at their pleasures. * * * *

These pretended owners not beinge restrained of their wastinge the verte, there will not be browse within these few yeares to releve the deere.

There are within the forest four several walkes, and as many keepers, all havinge under charge by their owne depositions not above 100 or 120 deere at the most.

As for lodges there is not one now in use ; one there was of antiquitie, knowne by the name of the old lodge, now utterly decayed. A second was built by and in the time of Henry VIII., as is proved by others, the use whereof is altered and converted to an ale house, standing in the principall parte of the forest, upon a hill fittest for a lodge to keepe the deere, now fitt to harbor thieves and enimies to the game, standinge verie privately within the claime of one Mr. Richard Barkeley, who disposes of the same to his owne use.

Everie keeper has 40s. per annum of his Majestie, besides other knowne and casual profittes incident to their places.

Sir George Choworthe is master of the game, who hath under him a ranger, whose fee per annum is £111 8s. 1½d. These wages and fees are paid by the Sheriffe of Bristole yearly, who are allowed the same againe upon their accompt in the Exchequer.

Sheepe and goates, most pernicious cattle, intolerable in a forest, make a far greater shew than His Majesties game. As for the goates, they have confounded by their barking and pelling off the barke infinite manie faire holleyes, the chiefest browse now in use.

The coale mines also devoure the principall hollies in all partes of the forest, for the supportation of these pittes, His Majestie having no share of the profittes thereby in the browse fit for deere consumed, and the herbage dayely impaired by castinge of their coal mines over manie places of the forest.

It is proved by others also that in former tymes, the keepers have used to cutt downe the boughs of oke in all partes of the forest, as big as a Soar or Soarell could turn over with his head, and to sell the wood thereof to their own use, which cutting has been lately discontinued, by reasons that everie pretended owner presumes at his owne will to cut downe his wood, and by that, their lybertie prevents the deere of that kind of browse, and force the keepers to either to take bushe browse or to famish the game in winter ; and the small browse that the keepers are enforced to take, the offal thereof the woodwards of everie division doe usurpe and take from the keepers, which makes them so much the more remisse in guardinge and relieving His Majesties game, insomuch that the game is almost consumed.

There are verie many cottages rayseed upon the forest maintained under the toleration of the statute for erecting of houses neere unto minerall places. But in this forest are far more erected than the necessitie of the coal mynes requireth, which cottages are a great spoyle of the browse, and much hurtfull to the game. Everie particular pretended owner of the divisions wherein they are erected receiving the rents for the same.

The coales yearly taken within the whole of the forest are deposed to be yearley worth clearley about £200, but by relation they are esteemed to be worth about £500 per annum at the leaste.

There is one division claymed by Mr. Thomas Chester (against which it is said there is a judgment for the kinge), wherein is a place called Megg Thatcher's Greene, upon and neere which, it is proved by others, that Mr. Chester hath caused to be felled and sould neere 40 timber trees since (February, 1613), and one that carried parte of them deposeth, that he carried about 30 tuns of timber; and there is more lately sould to a tanner of Brightstoll, about 40 timber trees to be felled this season without present restraint. Also within the same division are dayly coales digged by one Player, the generall farmer of the coales within the whole forest, but the judgment considered it were fit he were inhibited from digging. Quousque, &c.

There are within the forest ten severall clayms, viz. :—

			Acres.					
Thomas Chester, Esq.	1300	} <table><tr><td>m.</td><td>xx.</td></tr><tr><td>iiij</td><td>ccciij</td></tr></table> xviii acres by estimation.	m.	xx.	iiij	ccciij
m.	xx.							
iiij	ccciij							
Richard Barkeley, Esq.	540					
Sir Henry Billingsley	810					
The Lord Barkeley	...	}	1350					
The Lady Newton	...							
The Lady Stafford	22					
Mr. Weston	83					
Sir Rowland Lacie	28					
Mr. Evans of Bitton	36					
Sir Raulfe Sadler	58					

If any graunts have paste from his Majesties progenitors of their claimes it were fit to consider with what words, by what name, and in what lymits it is paste, and assigned to lye.

(Signed) JOHN NORDEN.

In Dorso.—The Surveyes of the Forest of Kingswood and the Chace of Fulwood, 1615.

In the same year also, 1615, in September, the king issued a proclamation respecting the due observance of all forest lands. Accordingly a great dissatisfaction occurred in many places where

such forests existed, the people becoming riotous. Forest laws were severely tested. Attempts were made at Kingswood to stop some of the works, and the colliers were prevented from taking and using for their own benefit certain quantities of coal which they had hitherto done as a certain privilege granted them. Further attempts were also made to prevent any other encroachments on this forest; hence a riot took place.

Fosbroke tells us that there was a great riot about this time through the discontent. We have seen that the poor people petitioned the mayor and city authorities, and now we see the city of Bristol petitioning the Privy Council in respect to these abuses, with what result may be seen in the next document. "June 18th, 1616," six months after the petition, "the king granted authority to one Daniel More, for the surveyorship of coals. Objections were raised against this by law courts, but he succeeded. Tranquility was restored in Kingswood."*

But there was a special reason just then which lay at the basis of all these squabbles. The king found himself in exceedingly embarrassed circumstances. Since his last Parliament had dissolved in 1614, the sheriffs, in three years, had raised only £60,000. Hence, in his distress, James resorted to all sorts of expedients to raise money. He refused to part with the feudal privileges which had come down to him from the Middle Ages—his right to the wardship of young heirs and the marriages of heiresses, which he now recklessly used as a means of fiscal extortion. He degraded the nobility by the shameless sale of peerages, and of the ninety lay peers which he left in the Upper House at his death, the larger part of them had been created by this disgraceful bargaining. Indeed, we find the king endeavouring to lay his hand upon everything where he is sure of his authority, and nowhere more so than in the matter of forests and forest lands, where he asserts his rights.

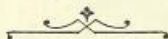
In 1617 he "sealed a patent for the purpose of raising £100,000 a year from his woods and forests." There is reason to believe that a large proportion of the timber in Kingswood Forest disappeared at that time.

* Pat. Rolls.

In the neighbourhood of Kingswood the tempers of many of the nobility and many of the inhabitants were put to severe tests. Anxious to please the king, and yet to have a conscience of their own, as many were Puritans, for a period they seemed poised between principle and policy; some yielded to the latter, while not a few left the country.

The persecutions of the Puritans, and the long imprisonment of Sir Walter Raleigh alone, clearly indicate the character of James the First.

"No sovereign could have jarred against the conception of an English ruler which had grown up under the Tudors more utterly than James the First. His big head, his slobbering tongue, his quilted clothes, his rickety legs, his goggle eyes, stood out in as grotesque a contrast with all that men recalled of Henry or Elizabeth, as his gabble and rhodomontade, his want of personal dignity, his vulgar buffoonery, his coarseness, his pedantry, his contemptible cowardice." Under this ridiculous exterior, however, lay a man of much natural ability, a ripe scholar, with a considerable fund of shrewdness, of mother wit, and ready repartee. His canny humour lights up the political and theological controversies of the time with quaint incisive phrases, with puns and epigrams, and touches of irony, which still retain their savour. His reading, especially in theological matters, was extensive; and he was a voluminous author on subjects which ranged from predestinarianism to tobacco. But his shrewdness and learning only left him, in the phrase of Henry the Fourth, "the wisest fool in Christendom."* It is from these and some other reasons we see why Fitzgerald, and others after him, could not prosecute their coal business in Kingswood without so much interference.



* Green's English People.

CHAPTER X.

CHARLES I. TO CROMWELL.

WE must now pass over a period of twelve years, during which time no materials of consequence come to us respecting Kingswood. Yet these were momentous years, and a few statements seem to be necessary to show their bearing on this subject. Charles the First, now reigning, is seen in the midst of his dark struggles. Influenced by the French Princess (black-eyed) whom he had married, and also some Romish priests and Ministers of State, he began his reign as a tyrant. Taxes were imposed and levied without the consent of people or Parliament. Under his primate, Laud, great troubles arose in the Church, and persecutions so severe followed, that the Puritans by thousands left the country. Indeed, these few years were marked by persecution and bitter resentment such as cannot be equalled in the history of Protestantism. But Charles was, like his father, a poor man, and heavily in debt. The income of the Crown, unaided by Parliamentary supplies, was utterly inadequate to meet his ordinary expenditure. Like James also, his Royal pride was driven to curious shifts to fill an empty exchequer. The dormant powers of the prerogative were again strained to their utmost, and the right of the Crown to force knighthood on the landed gentry was revived. Fines were levied on them for the redress of defects in their "title deeds." A commission of the forests exacted large sums from the neighbouring land-owners for their encroachments on Crown lands.

During these times, in the year 1629, 5th of Charles the First, we find another trial at law occurred between the Attorney-General and Berkeley, Chester, Newton, and Player, but with what result I cannot find. The depositions of witnesses are interesting, and disclose to us the condition of things in the

forest at that time. The witnesses were all old men, and residents in the neighbourhood :—

Thomas Walter gave the names of the keepers :—William Tucker, J. Dyer, Nicholas Reed, and Prosser. Their wages were 40/- a year and "Vails." Knew the house in the middle of the forest called "Old Lodge." He knew "Merstone's," set up in 1599.

John Fido, Oldland, aged 60, knew the forest forty years. The Earl of Arundel has now the custody. The king has now and ever had deer there. Knows the Lodge. Knew the Liberties meet at a place called "Old Wyfe's Cross," alias "Down Cross," it is about the middle of the forest. He knew the walk of the foresters. Prosser's walk was from Conham to Siston Brook. Gregory's, Siston Brook to Mangotsfield Mill. Tucker's, Mangotsfield Mill to Stapleton's Sides. Reed's, from Stapleton Sides to Conham. The foresters took money for pack saddles at Breachgate (Bridgate), Keynsham Bridge, and Lafford's Gate. He knows August Causeway in the forest near Dungeon's Cross, Gossnell—near the Lodge, Golden Key and Broad Arrowhead Oak within the forest. Also Gillard's Inn near the Lodge.

Giles Musley, of Barton, knows the Heath, Kingswood, and New pools, Stapleton (Fishponds). Deer belonging to the king had always been in Kingswood. James Dyer is the Ranger, and has supervision over four keepers.

Richard Prosser gave similar evidence; his father was keeper. In consequence of the wood being very thick in Kingswood the deer could not be destroyed. The keeper's wages are sometimes paid by the Sheriff of Bristol. All passengers passing Roegate and Dungeon's Cross with wains, carts, pack-saddles, pay a penny for every pack-saddle, and fourpence for every wain, or cart, marking them with an iron mark.

William Tucker gave similar evidence. His grandfather was keeper, and told him when he died there were 1600 deer in Kingswood.

William Dyer is ranger. He is under the Earl of Arundell, and is paid £3 8s. 2½d., and the keepers have each 40s. wages. He knows the Lodge on the hill, and also another Lodge at Downinge, near the pond.

Edward Woolie and William Gregory gave similar testimony.

Richard Haynes There were very ancient marks and meers when he first knew Kingswood, but about twenty years ago new meers and stones were set up in some of the ancient bounds by direction of Mr. Richard Barkley and Mr. Chester.

All the above witnesses, and others, were in favour of the

Plaintiff, the Attorney-General. The following are from the witnesses on behalf of the Defendants—special depositions:—*

John Harding, of Bitton, yeoman, aged 78. He knows those who have been Lords of the manor of Bitton dig coales and stone, and cut down trees within their manors. He knew Robert Weekes (Wykes) cut down trees, &c. Fifty years ago he cut down a hundred loads of wood on Kingswood for his own use. At a place called the Golden Key he cut down all the wood, and made charcoal of it, and then enclosed the place. But the people after two years pulled it all down, and it has remained open ever since.†

John Marne, of Barton Regis, gave evidence as to Liberties, of Newton, Berkeley, and others.

John Ball, yeoman, of Mangotsfield, aged 80, stated that about twenty years ago, “meerstones,” were set up where ancient trees before stood to divide the land.

John Noble and Thomas George, and others, gave similar evidence in favour of the Defendants.

What resulted from the lawsuit I have not discovered.

At this time the king, ruling now absolutely, revived some obsolete laws; and the forest rights of the Crown were extended according to their ancient limits, embracing tracts of country which had long been held as private property, and the holders of these had to redeem them by heavy payments, or lose their estates. What the effect of this was upon the holders of Liberties or encroachments in Kingswood Chase I have been unable to find, excepting that Bristol Castle was severed for ever from Gloucestershire, and Kingswood Forest was cut off from Bristol Castle. This kind of policy Charles pursued for some time, and in one year gained a hundred thousand pounds. “The king by charter, 1631, made over the whole of Bristol Castle to the mayor and burgesses of the city, in consideration of a certain sum, for ever,” separating it from the county of Gloucester, and “investing the said authorities with the whole of its control and management then and for ever.”

Perhaps, as Mr. Player and others were closely associated with the authorities, and as he lived in the city, they compounded

* Glou. 5th, Chs. I. (1629), 1. Mic. No. 191.

† This Robt. Wykes was one of the Lords of Oldland. He died a beggar in the streets of London.

matters between them. Accordingly from this time forth Kingswood foresters, and other officers, were no longer dependent or connected with the Castle of Bristol; knights' fees and foresters' moieties from rents of mines, woods, &c., not being altered by the sale.

It will be interesting to observe here, that down to the last year, 1631, Kingswood Forest had always been associated with, and its keepers paid by, the officers of Bristol Castle. This castle, although in the city of Bristol, was not, however, in any way under the control or subject to the authorities of Bristol. For Edward the Third, when granting Bristol its charter, had clearly defined the citizens' rights, in describing their privileges and powers to be exercised in their "city and county by itself"; but he reserved to himself the prerogative of ruling and arming the castle, which in those days seemed to be a reasonable procedure of kingly dignity. Accordingly sometimes we find the castle authorities, who would consider themselves Royal servants, with the wardens and foresters of Kingswood, who also as such were of equal standing, somewhat opposed to the authorities of Bristol. There existed, indeed, oftentimes a hostile and bitter feeling between them. Whether any such difference existed at the beginning of James the First's reign is, I think, highly probable, and may account somewhat for the interruptions which occasionally took place respecting the coal mines of Kingswood. In 1602, a petition was presented to the Privy Council from the commonalty of the city, grievously complaining against Sir John Stafford, knight, keeper of Bristol Castle. This old nobleman had for forty-seven years held the office of constable. He died in the castle, and was buried at St. Mary's, Thornbury. It is recorded of him that he was a pious man, "confessing when he died that he had always lived in the frail and slippery course of a soldier and courtier from manhood to his death." He endowed an almshouse at Thornbury. The petition of the Bristol authorities sets forth that this old knight was seldom or never resident in the castle, "but leaving a mean and unworthy deputy in his stead, hath of late time suffered many poor and indigent people, to the number of forty-nine families, consisting of about two hundred and forty persons, to inhabit within the said castle, who

for the most part are persons of lewd life and conversation, and in no way able to relieve themselves but by begging and stealing, to the great annoyance of the citizens, the rather for that the said castle being exempted from the liberties of the city though it standeth within the body of the same, doth serve for a refuge and receptacle of malefactors as well of the city as others that fly thither to escape justice: it was thought and ordered, to the petitioners' humble request, that for avoiding the present inconvenience, and preventing the like for the future, the Lord High Treasurer and Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling the said John Stafford before them, should take orders for removing the persons then residing in the said castle unto such places where they last dwelt; and also that there be not hereafter any more admitted to inhabit there, but only such as Sir John Stafford will undertake, for their sufficiency and good behaviour, to the end the city be not further charged or molested by them, or his Majesty's castle pestered with any such base cottagers, or scandalous inmates."

From these proceedings we gather that the constables of the castle, in exercising their powers of office, occasionally made themselves obnoxious in their procedure to some of the gentlemen in the city. It is reasonable to suppose that their prejudices in favour of the king would be very strong; leaning upon the regal arm of his Majesty, and after having exercised his power so long, they at once resisted any opposition to their will. This had been often done. "Hugh de Gourney had his lands seized by a precept to the Constable of Bristol Castle from the king for hunting in the king's forest, Kingswood, by Bristol, for three days without license, 7th of Henry the Third, M. G.)* There is no doubt, therefore, but that there were some good reasons why Sir John Stafford had permitted forty-nine families to reside in Bristol Castle. At least it was a sort of "Cave of Adullam" to which many families had fled for refuge, apparently from the anathemas of the Bristol authorities.

Below will be found some account of a few of Kingswood foresters, who as "arrow men" were connected with the above

* Fosbroke. See *ante*.

castle. It is not unlikely, therefore, I think, that many of the stalwart warriors were drawn from the ranks of foresters of Kingswood. The old song in respect to this castle seems very appropriate here, which I give as follows, viz. :—

SONG TO ELLA,

Lord of the Castle of Brigstow, ynne Daies of yore. †

O thou, or what remaynes of thee,
Ella, the Darlynge of futuritie,
Let this my song, boldie as thie
Courage bee,
As everlastynge to posteritie ;

When Daciaes Sonnes,
Whose lockes of blonde Red hue
Lyke King Cuppes
Burstynge wythe the mornynge dewe.

Arraunged in drear Arraie,
Upon the letthalle daie,
Spread far ande wyde on Watchettes shore,
There dydst thou furyouse stande
Ande bie thie burlie Hande
Besprenge all the Meeds wythe gore,

Drawne bie thie anlace felle,
Downe to the depthes of Helle,
Thousands of Dacians wente
Bristowanes Menne of myght,
Y'dar'de the bloudye fyght
And acted deeds full Quente.

O thou wher'ere thie bones at Reste
Thie spryte to haunte delyghteth beste,
Whetherre upon the bloude embrewed plaine,
Or where thou kennst from farre
The Horrid Crie of Warre,
Or seest some mountaine made of Corse of Slaine ;
Or seest the hatched Steede
Yprannynge oer the Meede
Ande Neyghe to bee amenge the poynted speers,

† In the year 920.

Or in Blacke Armour Stalke arounde
 Embattled Brystow once thie ground
 And glowe ardurous on the Castle Steers
 Or fierie rounde the Mynstere Glare
 Styлле lette Brystowe be made thie care
 Garde it from foemenne and consumynge fyre,
 Lyke Avons streem ensyrke ytte rounde
 No lette a flame enharme the grounde,
 Tylle inne one flame alle the whole world expyre.

A modern version may, perhaps, be more readable to those unaccustomed to the old style of spelling, and will not, I think, be less pleasing to the eye.

It should be written thus, viz. :—

SONG TO ELLA,

Lord of the Castle of Bristol in days of Old.

O thou, or what remains of thee,
 Ella, the darling of futurity,
 Let this my song bold as thy courage be,
 As everlasting to posterity ;
 When Dacias' sons, whose locks of blood-red hue,
 Like king-cups, bursting with the morning dew ;
 Arranged in drear array,
 Upon the fatal day,
 Spread far and wide on Watchet's shore,
 There didst thou furious stand,
 And by thy burly hand
 Bespangled all the meads with gore.
 Drawn by thy courage, fell,
 Down to the depths of hell,
 Thousands of Dacians went ;
 Bristolians, men of might,
 Who dared the bloody fight
 And acted deeds full quent.
 O thou, where'er thy bones at rest
 Thy spirit to haunt delighteth best,
 Whether upon the blood embrewed plain,
 Or where thou ken'st from far
 The horrid cry of war,
 Or see'st some mountain made of corse of slain.

Or see'st the hatched steed
Now prancing o'er the mead,
And neigh to be among the pointed spears,
Or in black armour stalk around
Embattled Bristol, once thy ground,
And glow arduous on the castle steers?

Or fiery round the Minstery glare,
Still let Bristol be made thy care,
Guard it from foemen and consuming fire,
Like Avon's stream encirc'd it round,
Nor let a flame enharm the ground
Till in one flame all the world expire.

One part of the castle was specially constructed for the residence of "arrow men," and was therefore called the "Logg (lodge) of Arrow-men." It overlooked the mote facing the city. Of the kind of men those were, who lodged in this place—their character, qualifications, and appearance—something may be gleaned from an old author. The writer says, "They got together such a number of vassals, both horse and foot, or rather robbers and freebooters, that they appear not only great and terrible to the lookers on, but truly horrible, and it is scarce to be credited—for, collecting out of different regions, there is so much the more numerous and freer conflux of them, the more easy under a rich lord and the protection of a very strong castle, they have leave to commit whatever pleases them best in this rich country." This shows the reason why the "*via defensiva*" was constructed between the city and the castle—a guard against the depredations of these freebooters and licentious soldiery of the castle, whose governors were not always present to restrain, and sometimes connived at the irregularity of the military. They were, in fact, foresters, keepers, or rangers and others, drawn from the adjacent forest, the King's Barton, and the several ancient villages lying on its margin. Accustomed to the chase, to the use of the bow and arrow, and mostly in the king's service, they would be found always in good training for "arrow-men," or soldiers of the castle.

The lords of the castle were also, by way of distinction over these, designated "archers"—"The King's Archers"—besides

their official titles in their rank of nobility. Thus we find, many years after this, when the King's Barton and Kingswood were divided, as noticed below, some of the manors were apportioned to the "Archers resident in the forest." The Newtons, of Barr's Court, and the Duke of Beaufort, who possessed it afterwards, being specially described as such.* One Will. Pugh, an arrow-man of "Brigstow Castle," was killed in Kingswode Forest while hunting the "rid deere."† The arms of the Castle were singularly appropriate to these men. Cut in stone over the Governor's Hall was a "Shield G, three bow-rests or," the arms of Robert, Earl of Gloucester; also "G, two bends, one arg., the other or," the arms of Milo Fitzwarren, Earl of Hereford, who rebuilt the castle.‡

The subsequent account of Kingswood, as may be expected from the above, is somewhat different from that heretofore given. The frequent allusions to leases, manors, and the progress of coal works in the neighbourhood necessitating this difference. The king still held the main portion of it, however, as a forest, and large numbers of deer were kept here long after this time. At the time the Castle of Bristol was sold, or immediately after it, several noblemen obtained possession of manors in Kingswood. In 1638 also the king issued warrants to Lord Cottington, Sir Thos. Trevor, and the Attorney-General, authorising them to grant their estates for the remainder of the terms of 99 years in their manors of Knygswood, co. Gloucester.§

This year was a memorable year in King Charles's time, and being the year when so much occurred in the west in respect to him, some remarks here, perhaps, upon the times may not be deemed out of place. According to the decision of a council of judges, given after a long deliberation, the king was declared an absolute monarch, "having power over all acts of Parliament, his subjects, their money, their persons, and all they possessed." A judge declared that it "was most common and true, never had been otherwise, and never could be otherwise, than that *rex* was *lex*, or that king was law." Hence justice was thrown

* Barrett's Bristol. † Old His. Som. ‡ Sir Wm. Dugdale.

§ State Papers, Charles I.

into the dust. The king's word, whether right or wrong, must be obeyed.

An obnoxious tax, called "ship money," was demanded, which the people thought unjust, created a commotion in Bristol and elsewhere. But there was no redress. It aroused a most stern and bitter spirit in England. The Scotch people also were exceedingly provoked by the king, being commanded to use certain books in the church which were most unpalatable to them. Many of the nobles in tears subscribed to an oath that it should never be done; some being so bold, it is said, as to have drawn their own blood and used it instead of ink in subscribing their signatures. From September to the end of the year Bristol was full of commissioners and pursuivants, who exacted heavy sums of money from all classes. Four aldermen and many merchants were despatched by the city to the king to complain of their grievances. His Majesty received them very graciously, and embraced them, expressed his sorrow that he had granted such oppressive commissions, but could not, he said, recall them; it was too late.

Meanwhile ominous events were at hand. The Bishops' War, the struggles of the Long Parliament, the execution of Strafford and Laud, and the Civil War follow each other in rapid succession. The king loses his crown, and must ere long lose his head also. Unhappy times! Every man's hand appeared lifted against his fellow, and almost all were lifted against the king. The princes, nobles, bishops, clergy, presbyters, independents, nondescripts, religious, and irreligious, every class, indeed, were filled with such a low, evil, festering spirit, and reeking with such insidious moral corruption, that one does not wonder at the sorrow and suffering that came in its wake. The unhappy king was driven from place to place, according to where his Royal troops were most successful. In the West of England the Cornish men were the king's most substantial warriors. A mere handful of these pushed up to Bath, stormed Lansdown, and won a splendid victory. Bristol had decided on the Parliament's side, the city being garrisoned and governed under Nathaniel Fiennes, a descendant of Lord Say and Sele. From some cause, however, said to have been cowardly proceedings, Bristol fell into the

hands of the king. In August of the same year (1643) the king came to Bristol, and attended the Cathedral at a thanksgiving service. Charles held Bristol but for a short time. The battle of Marston Moor was fought, and with it the king's hopes were dashed away for ever. The battle of Naseby followed, and soon afterwards the king found himself condemned to die.

In anticipating the siege of Bristol, Cromwell and his staff spent their first night at Kainsham, August 21st, 1645. The next day he set guards along the river Avon, maintaining a passage for troops. The staff then removed to Hanham. On the 23rd, Fairfax and Cromwell were engaged in settling the quarters and guards on the Gloucestershire side. It was at this time Cromwell visited Kingswood and some of the manor houses in the neighbourhood. The fourth day the staff removed to Stapleton. The fifth day, Sunday, observed; a sally out of the city repulsed; next day all quiet; seventh day, another sally out of the city, ten Royalists killed, ten wounded; eighth day, all quiet; ninth day, Portishead taken. The next day Cromwell's men observed a fast; a fourth sally from Lawford's Gate; eleventh day, quiet; twelfth day, council of war held; thirteenth day, 16,000 men under Prince Rupert made a fierce attack on Cromwell at twelve o'clock, repulsed. A council of war held the next day at Stapleton; the manner of storming the city agreed on; fifteenth day, storming parties distributed to their places; sixteenth day, siege begun. Tighter every day Cromwell had been cautiously drawing a cordon around the city, and marking its vulnerable points. At last, and when all was ready, at two o'clock on a calm September morning, Cromwell, in an "old barn" perched at the top of a hill where he can see all, gives the signal, when immediately "four big guns" burst forth on Prior's Hill, and the terrible destruction begins.

How an army could pray, and fast, and read psalms, and the next hour all hot and bleeding, be glorying over the sufferings and anguish of dying men, I cannot understand.

Strange, that man can become so suddenly changed, whom nothing suits so well as "modest stillness and humility; but when the blast of war blows in his ears, then he is to imitate the action of the tiger, stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,

disguise fair nature with hard-favoured rage, then lend the eye a terrible aspect; let it pry through the portage of the head like the brass cannon; let the brow o'erwhelm it, as fearfully as doth a galled rock o'erhang and jutty his compounded base, swilled with the wild and wasteful ocean. Now set the teeth, and stretch the nostril wide, hold hard the breath, and bend up every spirit to his full height!"* And then:—

Shakes the hills with thunder riven;
Then rush the steeds to battle driven:
And louder than the bolts of heaven,
Flash the red artillery. †

Cromwell succeeded in being not only the master of the West, of which Bristol was the chief city, but also of all England—the King, after many troubles, giving himself up to the Scotch.

Some writers tell us that the Scotch were greatly in favour of the king, yet cunningly enough, they secretly fixed a price upon his head of £400,000. The Parliament offered £200,000, and the local connection with this transaction was, that the Governor of Bristol Castle, Philip Skippon, was commissioned to go into Scotland with that sum to induce them to deliver up the king into their hands. This was accordingly done on the 10th day of February, the same year, 1646.

History has made us all familiar with what follows: the king, now a royal prisoner, was most keenly watched, moved from place to place, and finally brought to Westminster, and there, "for going to war with his own subjects," condemned to be beheaded.

We are told how Charles was led out of the banqueting-house at Whitehall, on to a black scaffold, and prepared for execution. With a trembling hand gathering up his flowing curls under his cap, and looking calmly on his bishop, he said, "I have a good cause, and a gracious God on my side; I go from a corruptible to an incorruptible crown, where there shall be no disturbance." "Yes," said the prelate, "a good exchange." While taking off his cloak hundreds of upturned faces were seen wet with tears, a

* Shakespeare. † Campbell.

deep hush and a breathless pause followed, broken only by a sob or a moan from a friend or a soldier. Handing a brilliant star from off his breast to the bishop, and softly kneeling by the block, Charles spread out his thin white hands as a token that he was ready. A huge axe was lifted high in the air, and instantly fell with a sickening thud on the royal neck, severing the head from the body. A loud groan, and a most tumultuous clamour of disapprobation followed, and continued until a large proportion of the people dispersed.

Philip Skippon, who was commissioned to bargain for the king's head, had been a major-general in the king's army, and had obtained, it is said, great skill in wars abroad. He was credited with a great part of Cromwell's success at Bristol. Adrian Scroop succeeded him to the Governorship of Bristol, and also of the Castle. He was the last appointed Governor of the Castle. In his time the latter was dismantled, and a new road (Castle Street) made through it leading into the county of Gloucester. The last visible relic of this Castle was Hlaford's Gate, or, as now written, Lawford's Gate, or the Lord's Gate, so-called from the Lords or Governors of the Castle. It stood eastwards of the Castle grounds, the space there being, as supposed, originally used for the purpose of a market—the name of the "Old Market" being still retained in this spot. In this gate were two stone figures, representing Ælla and Coernicus, warders of the Castle "in days of yore." In 1776 the gate was removed, and the figures taken to Brislington, where, I believe, they still remain.

During Scroop's time in Bristol, or in the year 1652, the Government made a survey of Kingswood Forest, an account of which has been preserved in one of the county histories. The particulars are as follow, viz.:—

"THE BOUNDARIES OF KINGSWOOD CHASE, MADE BY
THE GOVERNMENT, May 26th, 1652."

"Kingswood was bounded by divers inclosed lands shewed by the ancient inhabitants within the bordering parishes; beginning near a stone called Dungal's Cross, so to the Roe-yate northwards,

by several inclosed lands, to the manor house and grounds called Ridgway, unto a gate called Langland's Gate, abutted on the north by the said Ridgway House, on to Bullibroke, and along the foot of the new pools to Rubley's Yate Lane; thence abutted on the east by Longwells, next Mangotsfield parish, along to Erford's Lane, so down Bromley's Heath unto Brimble's Gate, and thence returning towards the south, surrounding the said green, unto Westerly Gate; thence unto the grounds called Charnock's and into Mangotsfield Bottom unto Siston's Brook and along it southward, returning down Mangotsfield Bottom, unto the Highway or Road, from Dungal's Cross (to Warmley), abutted by Siston's Common, and thence unto Grimsbury Lane above Mr. Woodward's house; thence winding westward by Grimsbury Hill, and along the Cock Rode Hill down eastward by Workman's Green, and thence southward unto the highway towards Mr. Newton's house and manor; thence passing into Herring Lane End, and over the hill, Martin's House Hill unto Cadbury's Bottom; thence southward up Jeffery's Hill unto the road from Bristol to Bath, then north up the said road to the door of H. Stone, where we cross the said road; thence south along by some houses and westward along by Prosser's Gate unto Cadimore Brook, unto Hanam's Lane and over Jeffery's Hill, and along down Conham's Hill to the lower end of Stode Brook, so to Deanridge's lands, rounding then to the river Avon; thence turning short about to the north-west by Harris' Hill, unto the north-east of the said hill, near to the Bath Road; so along westward by the Dean and Chapter's lands till we come over against Sim's smith's shop and Dungal's Cross, whence we set out. Total of acres of the whole of the Chase were 3,432 acres."

Whether the lords to whom Charles the First granted manors in Kingswood still retained them at this time or not, I cannot discover. Most likely, I think, they did not—the survey of Kingswood being intended possibly for a more accurate division and redistribution of the property among Cromwell's favourites in Bristol or neighbourhood.

We find endeavours were made in Kingswood to smelt iron from pit coal in Cromwell's time, and also at a later period. Up

to this time iron had been, and still was, smelted with wood fuel only. A treatise had been published a little prior to this time, by one Sturtivant, in which there were some chapters called the "Surveyor's Dialogue," by one John Norden—the gentleman whose survey of Kingswood I have given above. The object of this dialogue, we are told, was to make out a case against the iron-workers, and their being allowed to burn up the timber of the country as fuel for smelting purposes. Simon Sturtivant was the first to take out a patent for smelting iron from pit coal, but we are told he failed, and his patent was cancelled the same year. In 1656 Captain Copley obtained from Cromwell a patent for "making iron from pit-coal," and erected works near Bristol and in Kingswood Forest for that purpose. Copley, it is said, failed to "make his bellows to blow," and sent for one "Dud Dudley," an expert, who instructed him in the art. This "Dud Dudley" was supposed to have been in possession of the secret of smelting iron from pit coal, and had been working the scheme elsewhere. But his works all failed, and Copley's works also at Kingswood came to an end. Dudley's presence in Bristol and neighbourhood came about in a most extraordinary manner, the particulars of which must be interesting in this place. Born in 1599, son of Edward Lord Dudley, of Dudley Castle, in Worcestershire, Dud went to Balliol College, Oxford, 1619. From the College he was sent to manage an iron furnace and two forges at "Pensvet." There he first substituted pit coal for charcoal, first making the coal like charcoal, *i.e.*, into coke. A sad disaster occurring here—a great storm, called the "May-day flood," swept the whole of his works away. He was afterwards bitterly persecuted on account of his "secret," and in a riot on one occasion his bellows were cut to pieces, and his works utterly demolished. He was then seized by his creditors, and sent to London, where he was a prisoner for several thousand pounds. King Charles the First took compassion on him, and renewed his patent. The Civil War following, Dud became a Royalist, and was one who set out from London with the king, 1642. He was advanced to a "major" in Sir Francis Worsley's regiment, and was at the siege of Gloucester, then with Sir Geo. Lisle. Finally he was taken prisoner, sent to London, and ordered to be

shot. But Dud made his escape from prison, and came all the way from London to Bristol on crutches, where he continued to live a long time in strictest privacy.*

It was during this time that Copley made his acquaintance, and introduced him to his works at Kingswood.



* S. Smiles.

CHAPTER XI.

CROMWELL TO JAMES II.

CHARLES the Second ascending the throne, great changes were effected in the tenure of Crown and all other lands. Bishops and evicted royalists "quietly re-entered into the occupation of their old possessions." Sequestrations and fines had impoverished numerous adherents to the royal cause, forcing them to sell their estates. In Bristol, many such adherents were forced into prison.

Demands were now made by these for compensation, losses, and the cancelling of such sales. The king having entered upon his reign with the same rights in respect to the Crown lands as his father and others of his ancestors had done—viz., in respect to military tenure—began at once to exercise this old prerogative. The "convention," however, seeing that it would put too much power in the king's hands, offered him instead £100,000 a year. Indeed, one of the first acts of the "convention," and which was confirmed afterwards by the Parliament, was to abolish the claim of the Crown in respect to reliefs, wardships, purveyance, &c., and the conversion of lands held in chivalry into lands held in common socage. Hence, after the second year of Charles II., we find no more wardens appointed over the forest of Kingswood by the kings, the whole of it being divided into manors, a great part of which was subsequently leased for coal mines.

The next two "wardens" appointed over Kingswood were John Gifford, of Witham, in 1660, and Colonel Humphrey Cooke, 1661. At the time the survey of Kingswood, given above, was made, in 1652, the total value of the chase was about £3,352; the value of coals, timber, cottages, &c., forming the chief item, or £2,080, of this sum. "Formerly," it said in the report, "the chase contained 2,000 deer, but now there are only 30, which are set down at £30."

In 1662, Sir Gilbert Gerrard and Sir Nicholas Throckmorton obtained warrants for grants of money out of the fines arising from the king's right of franchais and liberty of chase in Kingswood—Gerrard for £1,500, Throckmorton for £1,000.

Sir Nicholas died two years after this and a nephew, Sir Baynham, took up the matter subsequently, held the forest on a lease, and was appointed ranger by the king; appointing a sub-deputy ranger himself, Robert Dover.

This Sir Baynham Throckmorton, so far as I can discover, is the last ranger appointed by the king over the Chase of Kingswood; but he was appointed, as we may see, upon the effect of his own petition, and not as had been the usual course heretofore—by the usual and regular mandate of the king. It would seem that Sir Baynham tried to champion the king's cause and interest in this place as well as success and return from his own sixty years' lease; but it was of no avail, the pretended lords of the soil were too strong and too many for him. Hence, after his death, no other ranger was appointed over Kingswood.

“Hodie mihi cras tibi.”

It appears that at this time a petition was laid before the king in council, January 12th, 1663, showing the state of affairs with the Throckmortons and others afterwards. It sets out by stating that Sir Charles Harbord, Surveyor-General, made a report, 1661, that the soil, wood, and coaling belonged to the lords, the king having nothing in the chase but the pasturage for the deer and free-warren for hunting. That in consideration for their services and sufferings for Charles I., and on their petition granted by Privy Seal, dated 17th March, 1662, to Sir Gilbert Gerrard and Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, £1,500 to the first and £1,000 to the latter, to be raised out of the chase by composition with the lords and others; but before anything could be done, Sir Nicholas died, 1664, leaving his lady, Alice, a widow, and six small children destitute. After this, Sir Baynham Throckmorton, a nephew, signed articles of agreement with the Lord Treasurer, who issued a commission to enquire about the chase: these returned that the chase had become wholly unfit to be replenished with deer, and that the lords were *obstinately* opposed to such a measure.

Thereupon, Sir Baynham, November, 1667, petitioned the king to grant *him all his interest in the chase*, with his franchise, for sixty years, asserting that he had already spent £1,000 among some of the pretenders to the soil, and had paid £100 to Sir Humphry Hooke for the surrender of his patent of rangership, &c.; the chase had become a public nuisance, as was lately represented to the judge by the grand jury at Gloucester, being inhabited by a numerous company of idle dissolute characters, resorting thither from all quarters, living as they please; the roads through the chase from London and other places to Bristol were very dangerous to passengers, especially in the night, the highway not being fenced or bounded; the goods and houses of the adjacent inhabitants were insecure and daily getting worse and worse.

A second petition followed to the same purpose; when the king in council, 12th of June, 1668, ordered that the chase should be re-stocked with deer, and Sir Baynham was appointed ranger. In January following, a patent was granted to him, which was followed by a lease, 1670, for sixty years, on condition to restore the chase within seven years, to repair the lodges within three years, to maintain the keepers and preserve the vert and suppress purpresturers (inclosures) and nuisances without charge to the king; and the king to have five brace of bucks and five does yearly. Sir Baynham had previously appointed one Robert Dover his deputy, as described above.

Copy of the record appointing R. Dover ranger:—

ROBERT DOVER APPOINTED DEPUTY RANGER [A.D. 1671].

To all Christian people to whom these Presents shall come.—I Sir Baynham Throckmorton of Clewenwall in the County of Gloucr. Knight and Baronet, Rainger of his Majties, Forest or Chase of Kingswood in the same County send greeting.

Knowe yee, that I yee said Sr Baynham Throckmorton have nominated constituted ordeyned atthorized appointed and by these presents to nominate constitute and ordeyne authorize and appoint Robert Dover of Wollaston in the said County of Gloucr. Gentleman my Deputy or under Rainger of the said Forest or Chace of Kingswood, hereby giving and graunting unto ye said Robert Dormer power and authority by all good and lawfull wayes and meanes to preserve his Majestie's Game and Deere

now beinge or hereafter to bee in the said Forest or Chase, and prevent hinder and obstruct all and all manner of hunting, coursing, and . . . within the same, . . . precincts and perambulations thereof—and to that end and purpose the said Robert Dover is hereby authorized and empowered by himself or under officers, from tyme to tyme to take away seize and secure all Hounds Greyhounds Spaniells and other dogs that shall at any tyme be found hunting or coursing within the precincts bounds and perambulation of the said Forest or Chase—and to take away and seize all guns netts and other engines that are kept within the said precincts for the destruction of his Majesties game within the same. And further, by all such good and lawfull wayes and meanes, by Fforest or Chase lawe, or other the lawes of this realm are allowed to prevent hinder all spoyles and destructions within the said Forest or Chace by diggings sinking or leaving open any Colepitts or Quarries of stone or slate or by cutting any of the wood or even making or continuing to make any Cottage or Cabins or enclosures within the said Forest or Chase or by such . . . the said Forest or Chase with . . . or other sorts of cattle when by the lawes and assize of the said Forest or Chase have been and are allowable and of right accustomed and generally to doe act execute fulfill and performe all and every lawfull act and acts, thing and things whatsoever for the better and more effectuall preservation of the said Forest or Chace and Game within the same and precincts and perambulations thereof, as fully and effectually and amply to all intents and purposes as the lawes of the Forest or Chace or other the lawes of this realm will allowe to have, hold, execute, and enjoy the said office of Deputy or under Rainger within the said Forest or Chase and precincts thereof during my will and pleasure—together with all Fees Wayes Profits Commodities Advantages Privileges to the said office of Rainger or Keeper belonging or apertaininge as fully and amply as any person or persons have had taken . . . and enjoyed the same or of right ought to have received taken and enjoye. And I do hereby revoake former powers and authorities by me given and granted to any person or persons of the said office of Deputy Rainger of the said Forest or Chase.—In witness whereof.

After getting his appointment, Sir Baynham vigorously went to work and prosecuted many intruders. Warrants were issued, and some were arrested and sent to prison. But the officers were greatly hindered and met with persistent resistance, especially by Sir John Newton, who most unwarrantably committed one of them to gaol till the assizes, for which Sir John was reprimanded by the judge and the prisoner was discharged. In the following September the sheriff apprehended about twenty more cottagers,

accepting bail; but as the sheriff's officers were returning home they were attacked by a riotous mob of four hundred persons, who destroyed the keeper's gardens, cut down trees, and threatened to murder them and the keepers. About thirty rioters were found guilty at the Epiphany sessions, 1670.

THE LORDSHIPS OF KINGSWOOD.

These are to be understood as the divisions or bounds to the land which each claimant set up, and not granted to him by authority.

In a few years after the Restoration, coal mining in Kingswood became very general; hence we find some gentlemen at this time seeking to obtain grants of land, and petitioning Lord Southampton to that effect, but could not obtain them unless it could be effected "by a treaty with the tenants,"* showing that the forest was wholly in other persons' hands. In 1670 the following persons had "liberties" in Kingswood, viz.: Sir John Berkeley, Thomas Chester, Sir John Newton, Earl of Rochester—*i.e.*, his heirs, Mr. Player, Mr. Townsend, Creswick, Wickams, and Lord Stafford.

Of the "Lordships" in the forest those westward were the largest. The Berkeley and Chester liberties, together, comprised about 1,600 acres, and may be described as extending west of a line drawn from Strode brook, at Hanham, to the parish boundary stone, now in the London Road on Kingswood Hill; thence extending past Welchne's Cross, lately called "Broad Arrow Head," near the old "Round-house," and continuing its course to the road above Fishponds eastward, thus finally in a straight line reaching the forest northward.

The division of these two large liberties was effected by a line drawn through "Gosshill Gully." Commencing a little south of the Roe Yate at Stapleton and extending to the line described above, this line would pass about forty perches south of Kingswood Lodge, and meet the other at right angles a quarter of a mile behind the parish stone on Kingswood Hill. In these liberties were those old coal mines which are now disused and hidden, lying near the lodge above. The total number of cottages

* See Entry Book, 18, p. 245.

on these estates at the date 1670 were about 210, most of which were near Don John's Cross.

Of the other lordships in Kingswood, the whole of them lay eastward of that line above described. It will be convenient, perhaps, to notice each of them consecutively, beginning at Hanham, eastward of Strode brook. The first lordship at this point would be that held jointly by Mr. Creswick and Mr. Wickham, a small liberty of sixty acres, all lying south of the Bath Road. There were "thirty-seven cottages in this lordship," but no coal works. The next "liberty" north of the Bath Road belonged to Sir John Newton; its boundary northward was marked by "mear stones" and an old house called "Burgesse's house." It contained a large number of coal-pits, and was called Sir John Newton's "Third Liberty." The liberties of the Earl of Rochester, called his "Second" and "Third" Liberties followed next. Mr. Townsend's lordship, called "Gee Moor," *i.e.*, Cockrode, and also another small lordship of Lord Stafford's behind the Grimsbury lane, were attached. A strip of land crossing the Warmley Road followed next—the "Second Liberty" of Sir John Newton. A similar strip again behind this was the Earl of Rochester's "First Liberty." The next, which embraced "Soundwell," was described as Sir John Newton's "First Liberty." The total number of acres in these estates was 1,178. The last lordship was that of Mr. Player, all in the parish of Mangotsfield, containing 571 acres.

The total number of coal-pits in the forest at that time, 1669-73, were seventy-two, and were distributed as follows, *viz.*:—In Berkeley Lordship, near Kingswood Lodge, six; in the Player Lordship, by Welchne's Cross, three; in Newton's First Lordship (Made-for-ever), six; in his Second Lordship, to the east of Kingswood Wesleyan Chapel, seven; in the Earl of Rochester's Second and Third Lordships, from Warmley to Hanham Lane, nineteen; in Sir John Newton's Third Lordship, from Bath Road to the windmill, twenty-three; in the Chester Lordship, eight.

It will be seen by these numerous works that large gaps must have been made among the trees of the forest; passes and roads also would be needed for the conveyance of coal and other purposes of the works. Thus the forest was fast disappearing, and

not only so by legitimate means, but the lawless colliers were continually ravaging the woods in quest of booty, or whatever they could find, and were only too glad to hunt up anything as an object of sport or cruelty. Hence the few remaining deer were chased, trapped, and slaughtered. It is said the last of these disappeared in a colliers' riot—the "biped pack having quarrelled over the possession of a slain quarry." When the "game" was gone sheep-stealing commenced, and subsequent years show that a large number of men from this neighbourhood were hanged for this crime.

Sir Baynham Throckmorton re-stocked the chase with 5,000 deer, and exhibited a Bill in the Exchequer against the intruders, or the pretended lords of the soil of the chase, viz., Sir John Newton, Thomas Chester, John Berkeley, and William Player, Esquires, for their intrusions and encroachments as well on the soil as the franchise. This suit lasted Sir Baynham's life; for having consented to a special jury, he could never get all the judges to argue it. Great opposition was made against him, especially by one Sir John Easley, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was brother-in-law to Chester, one of the defendants.

The matter being deferred, Sir Baynham died, 1680,—suit pending. After this the pretended lords, intruding, forcibly entered the chase, killed the deer, and denied the king's right. The next year we find "the three daughters of Sir Baynham Throckmorton assigning the forest to Francis Creswick, Esq., Thomas Stubbs and Stephen Chapman, Gents., with all the deer, &c., for the residue of the term of sixty years unexpired, for the sum of £850."

This Francis Creswick is the same gentleman who was sent to Gloucester gaol, supposed to have been mixed up with the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion.

The following is a copy of the assignment of the chase to him, Stubbs, and Chapman:—

ASSIGNMENT OF THE LEASE OF THE CHASE TO F. CRESWICK,
T. STUBBS, AND S. CHAPMAN [A.D. 1681].

Memorandum—It is agreed this present day by and between Mary Baskett of Clowerwall in the County of Glouces: spinster, Elizabeth

Throckmorton Carolina Throckmorton and Mary Throckmorton three of the daughters of Sir Baynham Throckmorton late of Clowerwall aforesaid Knt. and Baronet deceased of the one part, and Ffrancis Creswick of Hannam in the said parish of Bitton in the said County of Glouces. Esq. Thomas Stubbs of Stapleton in the said County gent. and Stephen Chapman of the Citty of Bristol gent. of the other part as follows

First—it is agreed by and between the said parties that the said Mary Baskett, Elizabeth Throckmorton, Carolina Throckmorton, and Mary Throckmorton, shall and will for the consideration hereafter mentioned well and sufficiently assign convey and assure unto the said Ffrancis Creswick, Thomas Stubbs, and Stephen Chapman, and to such other person or persons as they shall direct and appoint All that the Chase of Kingswood in the said County of Gloucr. with all the rights, priviledges, Game of deere, advantages and apportions whatsoever to the same belonging which the said Sr Baynham Throckmorton held by lease from the King's Majesty that now is for the terme of sixty yeares from Lady Day which was in the XXith yeare of His Majesty's reign: To hold to them the said Ffrancis Creswick, Thomas Stubbs and Stephen Chapman and their Executors and assigns from the present day for and during all the residue and remaynder of the said tearme of sixty yeares, which is yet unexpired. The Conveyance thereof to be made at the costs of the said Ffrancis Creswick, Thomas Stubbs, and Stephen Chapman doe covenant and promise to pay or cause to be paid unto the said Mary Baskett, Elizabeth Throckmorton, Carolina Throckmorton, and Mary Throckmorton or to some of them their Executors or Assignes the sum of eight hundred and fifty pounds of lawful money of England on or before the first day of Aprill next, All which the writings and conveyances are to bee sealed and executed And the money aforesaid is agreed to be paid at such house in or near Bristoll as the said Ladies shall direct and appoint. And thereupon they are to deliver unto the said Ffrancis Creswick, to bee kept by him for the use of himself and the said Thomas Stubbs and Stephen Chapman and such other persons as shall be mentioned with them, the originale lease from His Majesty before mentioned, under the Great Seal with all other writings papers and evidences whatsoever that does in any way concern or relate to the said Chase; for witness whereof the said parties have hereunto sett their hands and seales the third day of January 1681.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

Wm. Delahay.
Thos. Davies.

Mary Baskett.
E. Throckmorton.

The assignees being thus possessed, and become consequently


lessees of the chase, exhibited a Bill in the Exchequer, 1682, after which there were long and tedious controversies with the lords for the king's franchise. Many records were produced in court, from the Conquest to that time, but the court, at last, decreed the king's right to free chase against all opposers.

Copies of this decree were served to each of the lords, and to all in the chase who pretended to have a claim to the soil; but notwithstanding the trial and the decree of the king, the intruders still continued to spoil the chase, destroying the deer, building cottages, and adding inclosures, cutting down the timber, &c., though served with many injunctions from the Exchequer. A large number of persons who lived on the borders of the chase kept deer harness for catching deer, and cross-bows for killing them. Thus the lords against whom the decree was made defied the authorities; and an opportunity having occurred during the long and troublesome times of Charles I., they had already had the chase divided among themselves, and a map showing each man's share or liberty as he was pleased to call it. After the decree they allowed cottages to be built, taking rent for the same, and made the best terms they could with them, granting leases, &c.



CHAPTER XII.

JAMES II. TO VICTORIA.

UR next succeeding notice is from the times of James the Second. In August, 1687, the Queen of this monarch came to Bath, and a letter from the Board of Green Cloth, with a warrant, was addressed to the Ranger of the Chase of Kingswood, to deliver to the king's larders five brace of bucks on certain days, and others when required. Who this Ranger was, or who appointed him there is nothing to show.

The state of the chase at this time can best be understood by reference to the correspondence of the lessees, Francis Creswick, and others. In 1718, a negotiation was opened with Mr. Creswick by one Joseph Durden, of London, for the eleven years to run of the unexpired lease. The letter to Joseph Durden, in reply, is significant.

[COPY.]

LETTER FROM FRANCIS CRESWICKE TO JOSEPH DUNDERE,
IN WHAT IS SET FORTH THE END OF KINGSWOOD
CHASE.

Dear Sir,

In the absence of my son yours of the 7th of June came to my hand—In answer that there is such a number of yeares at 11—to come on the Patent for Kingswood, you say a great Peer has got a grant thereof, much good may it do him, for my part I have had enough of it: and perhaps he may too before he is 7 yeares older—I doe scarce believe my son will engage therein, nor would I advise him thereto and when this is done, the freeholders will never part with theyr right of common to the King, or to all ye Peers in ye kingdom—besides the lords who have real estates, and reside in the county, that is Sir John Newton, Mr. Berkeley, Mr. Chester, and Mr. Player are soe related to several great families in ye county that noe Peer can cope with them—this is my sentiments freely given not to discourage pattentee on his proceedings, for I should be glad

to live to see it begun, but I am sure I shall never see it ended, for I would that somebody should revenge my quarrel, there should be nothing wanting in me to assist them but I am unwilling that my son before he is settled should engage therein to gett the ill-will of so many Gentlemen as I have done, however at his return from Ireland, which I hope will be in some short time I shall give him yours, who shall himself write to you, and if I have any thing within the meantime to communicate I will answer it as far as I can. Tis true wee have gotten a Decree for ye King's right of Chase at a great expense and not one farthing ye better for it, nor will any body ever, for tis now utterly destroyed and not possibly to be restored, however we shall not better for it, for the woods are most if not all cutt downe, and since the Decree about 100 Cottts and inclosures which . . . freeholder, . . . against these Lords so that they would be glad to see these Lords punished . . . such a member before . . . The Chase contains 3 or 4000 deres . . . the extent perhaps 6 miles round or more the land is good, but part overrun with black thorns and some holly. I am of opinion that the Patentee must begin his suit in the Excheq. and file against all the said lords, for a Commission of Oyer and Termner will not be granted, nor has been these several ages, but a Commission of Oyer may be easily had what will be of no advantage to patentee, but before the Court of Excheq. and Kings . . . with Counsel. This is the truth of ye matter without any reserves or concealment, for if I did know anything to disclose in any way to advize, you should freely command me without expecting or proposing a reward for which I am very sensible I cannot meritt, for all our proceedings are on Record.

Sir,—If you and your friend come down, you both shall be truly wellcome to me and my son—assure yourself of my sincerity, perhaps a personal conference may be more satisfactory and to view the premises very proper, tho' I have said much in a letter, and you shall find nothing but truth, reality, and sincerity in me, and having a grant of ye premises your inquiry need not be private, but most publicke as you can, by which means you will the better . . . judge thereof, and of my present judgment, and as to the value of the land if the ground was all cleansed and cleared of the thorns and other encumbrences, (which never will be) it would be worth twenty shillings an acre. Mr. Chapman and Mr. Stubbs have been long since dead, myself only svrvivinge, there is nobody now claims or at least concerns themselves with the Chace but ye said Lords, I should readily with my right (if any) soe may be freed from my Covenants with ye Crown, but Stubbs sold his rights to the said Lords which was ye destruction of ye Deere—myne and Chapman's interest being undivided there, that ye said Lords will never part with theyre

interest there till ye 11 yeares do expire, you may be confident of that—
if any thing more strikes you pray be free to command I shall as readey
obey, being Sir, your most humble Servant.

Hanham Court,

14 June, 1718.

When the lease of Creswick's expired, 1729, it was stated the lands were held by several persons who had no title thereto, the lessee, or his representatives, having neglected to maintain the king's rights, or to make any advantage of the lands for many years previous to the expiration of the lease, so that it would be very hard to describe the boundaries, and the possession very difficult and expensive to recover. Four years after this Francis Creswick died, 1732.

In September, 1734, another lease was granted to Onisiphorus Tyndall, Jun., for thirty-one years, on condition of the payment of 40s. yearly, and that he should try the title of the Crown to the premises, with the aid of the Exchequer, if need be; and not compound with any pretended owner or occupier of the premises, to the prejudice of his Majesty's heirs and successors. In addition to the lease, Tyndall obtained a "demise of the quarries of stone, pits of coal, lead mines, copper, and other minerals, within the Forest and Chase of Kingswood for thirty-one years to pay the yearly rent of 6s. and 8d., and a tenth part of the clear yearly profits.* What were the results of this lease, or whether Tyndall took measures to fulfil its conditions cannot be shown.

The coal works had more than doubled in number during the last fifty years, and many thousands of colliers were employed in different places in the Forest.

About this time, 1731, the Government made a survey of all forests and chases in the country, particulars of which are preserved in two folio volumes.

The subsequent notes of this place seem to show that Mr. Tyndall succeeded in his law proceedings, and was a lord of a manor in Kingswood; he appears as a donor of £100 towards St. George's Church, twenty years afterwards. The liberties remained in the families named above during a long period; and,

* Exchequer Book, abs. Crown Leases, Vol. X., 343.

apparently there were but few changes—those which did occur being in the smaller liberties.

The next record is by the Committee of the Land Revenue, in their first report to Parliament, dated the 25th of January, 1787, where it is simply stated that “this was a disputed matter, and the lessee was to try the Crown’s title. Whether he succeeded or not does not appear to the Surveyor-General!”* “Thus it will be seen how, from generation to generation, a set of lawless persons had not only encroached upon the king’s right, but had converted it into an instrument of spreading immorality and desolation throughout the neighbourhood.”† At the period now under notice, a great number of men were imprisoned and hanged. In April, 1786, Joseph Fry and Samuel Ward were executed at Gloucester. They made the number of ten persons from Bitton parish who had died at the gallows within three years. The gang to which they belonged kept the neighbourhood in so much dread that people used to pay an annual stipend for them not to rob them; some paid 10s. 6d., some 5s., which was regularly collected at Lansdown Fair Day.‡ In the year 1795 riotous persons from Kingswood collected together on the “London Way,” and attempted to stop the loads of coal and provisions going into the city of Bristol, committing robberies on the highways by daylight. The city chamberlain offered a reward of fifty guineas for the apprehension and conviction of the offenders. Seven of the ringleaders were brought to justice, and punished, viz., Edward Peacock (alias Peake), Richard Hobbs Dick, Henry Lewis, Jacob Porter, Moses Isles, William Fry, and George Thompson.

Crime, however, still increased, and apparently the more that was done to suppress it the more it appeared. Things came to a climax in 1811. The respectable people in the neighbourhood formed themselves into an association for the prosecution of thieves and housebreakers, &c., and a troop of yeomanry called the Bitton troop was raised, which proved of great assistance to the constabulary and to the inhabitants.

* See also State Papers, G. M. B. M.

† Rev. — Ellacombe, P. His., 209.

‡ *Bristol Gazette*, April 23, 1786.

The following prospectus issued by them, in 1811, gives a sorrowful account of affairs at that time:—

KINGSWOOD ASSOCIATION
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF THIEVES,
HOUSEBREAKERS, &c.

WHEREAS the alarming Depredations continually committed, by a very daring and daily increasing combination of Villians, extending their ravages for many miles round the country, and well known to reside chiefly in this neighbourhood, have induced a few Persons, desirous of promoting the welfare of the Community, to unite their efforts, in attempting to form a Society, for the suppression of such enormous evils; and they did, by Advertisement, convene a considerable number of respectable Inhabitants, at the Flower Pot Inn, at Kingswood, on Monday the 9th September last; when certain Resolutions were agreed to, and a committee chosen, for the purpose of taking into mature consideration the peculiar circumstances of the Case,—in order to adopt and vigorously prosecute, with unwearied diligence, such measures as may tend to produce the desired effect, by striking a decisive blow at the root of such a System of Iniquitous Practices, as it is supposed, never was equalled in any other part of the Kingdom;

The Committee, in pursuance of such appointment, have since met at a room, engaged for the purpose, at Kingswood Hill, and resolved (in an entirely gratuitous manner, and with unremitted attention) to use every exertion in their power, to promote the designs of this Institution; and having acquired a comprehensive view of this singular System, as to the different modes in which their diabolical purposes are accomplished, conceive it not irrelevant to detail a few particulars.

This Scheme of unparalleled enormity, demanding such earnest attention, has been progressively and uninterruptedly maturing for a long series of years; and such is the nature of their establishment, that whole families are dependent on this combination for maintenance, and many hundreds of the younger branches are well known to be now in actual training for the like purposes. It is also ascertained, that they are in the habit of decoying labourers from their accustomed employments, and formally admitting them into their society.

Great numbers of hucksters, in this and the surrounding neighbourhood, are in alliance with them; the vendors of the goods are seen passing with cart-loads, to and from different places, by night, none presuming to interrupt them; and although it seldom occurs, that any of these plunderers succeed in securing their booty, without being recognized by colliers passing to and from the mines, before they arrive at their several

places of residences, yet they consider themselves as inviolably secure: for anyone daring to impeach them, would endanger both property and life: consequently, ordinary means adopted by Societies in general, in offering Rewards, &c., would be altogether abortive. Should the statement of these circumstances create surprise, or be deemed an exaggeration, suffice it to observe, that the committee (several of whom have been long resident in Kingswood, close observers of the transactions alluded to, and for those peculiar reasons, selected as most suitably qualified to meet the exigencies of the society) stand pledged to give the most positive proof of their existence, which is sufficiently notorious to the majority of the inhabitants of these parts.

The great number of Persons resident in the Neighbourhood of Kingswood might reasonably have encouraged us to expect extensive assistance. Such, however, is the astonishing terror prevalent in the minds of very many, arising from an apprehension that the incensed miscreants would reward their interference with still greater destruction, and so many are prevented from aiding this Association on account of Relationship to them, that when it is considered, in addition hereto, that thousands are connected, by receiving and vending the goods, it will not appear surprising that very few, comparatively, remain sufficiently virtuous or courageous to unite with us; and it must be needless to hint at the unparalleled enormities we have to expect, unless such prompt and energetic measures be adopted as the nature of the case requires. Under the impression therefore of their very urgent necessity, the Committee have determined on such cautious and vigorous steps as are very likely to accomplish their designs, and hope, through the united exertions of many of the respectable Inhabitants of Bristol, Bath, Kingswood, and their vicinity, to be soon enabled to proceed to successful operation.

Subscriptions are received at all the Banking Houses, at the Commercial Rooms, by Mr. Thomas Roberts, Stokes-Croft; Mr. James Ewer, Dighton Street; Mr. Thomas Stock, Lewin's Mead; and Mr. William Stockham, Castle Street, in Bristol; Mr. T. Parker, and Mr. Hobbs, Stapleton; Messrs. Emmet and Gunter, Downend; Messrs. Piper and Jefferys, Siston; Mr. R. Jarrett, at the Tower, Warmley; and the Treasurer; for which purpose suitable books of entry will be left with them. And in order to give the utmost satisfaction relative to the manner in which the business of this Society shall be conducted and the money applied, Mr. Robert Lewis, Merchant of Bristol, has obligingly consented to become Treasurer and Inspector, to whom progress will be regularly reported.

ROBERT LEWIS,

THOMAS STOCK.

THOMAS SANDERS.

December 28th, 1811.

This association did a great good, but nothing adequate to the needs of the neighbourhood. The authorities of Bristol, however, at last saw how these criminals were daily becoming a greater trouble to themselves, and a nuisance to peaceable citizens, and needed some exceptional measures to put a stop to them; accordingly they called together the city watchmen, and, in the still hours of the night, these proceeded to Cockroad—the thieves' stronghold—quietly surrounded each and all of the houses; and took the entire male population into custody, and marched them back to Bristol gaols. The "gang," as they were called, was broken up, and henceforth Kingswood had peace. In 1815 twenty-five prisoners were in Gloucester Gaol, committed for various offences, from this place.*

Up to this time there had been no schools for poor children. Wesley had built a school for the sons of ministers of the Wesleyan denomination right in the heart of the neighbourhood, but it shone as a light under a bushel, so far as the place was concerned.† There was, however, in Bristol, a small but energetic society, called the "Bristol Methodist Sunday School Society," and, to their credit, they built the first "day-school" within the Forest area, and on the very site of the rendezvous of the thieves at Cockroad. This school-house was opened in 1813, is still standing, and has been the source of great good to the entire neighbourhood. With regard to other schools, and the various places of worship, progress of the place, the manufactories and business, &c., I must refer the reader to these under their several denominations hereafter; but, before dismissing this chapter, it deserves to be recorded that so great a change had come over the inhabitants of Kingswood, that when the great Riots occurred in Bristol in 1831, and a large number of houses were burnt down, together with the Bishop's palace, not a single person from Kingswood was found among the rioters, nor yet among the sufferers in the Bristol Infirmary afterwards. Through the influences of the various schools, and the places of worship in the place, so great a change had come over the people.

* See more of this under village Cockroad.

† Now a Reformatory.

Societies also sprang up for social and moral improvement among them, and with all this happy result that now, Kingswood, the home for so many centuries of the lawless, and especially Cockroad, once a city of refuge for deserters from the army, and outlaws of every kind, are by God's blessing as quiet, orderly, peaceable, and honest as any other places in the kingdom.

Thus far have we seen that for the space of eight hundred years or more, in constant and almost consecutive notices, wherein is not wanting hardly a link in its connection, what importance and consideration nearly all our kings attached to Kingswood. And whether of the Plantagenets, Stuarts, Tudors, or other of the Royal Houses, so much interest was felt in it that almost in the first year of the ascendancy of such houses some important "warrant" or "grant" followed respecting it. Thus far, then, we have seen that Kingswood has a place in history.



CHAPTER XIII.

THE VALUE OF SOME OF THE LIBERTIES.

WE have seen that the lords of the various liberties were allowed at last to retain the lands of the entire chase. Down to the year 1780, most of these possessions had been retained since the restoration, but after that time they passed to various other owners. Sir John Newton's and Creswicke's lands were purchased at various times by the Whittucks, who still possess them, and who reside on the estate at Hanham Hall. Some of the smaller liberties were divided and sold in lots, many of which were again purchased by the lords of neighbouring estates. The Berkeley liberties had been purchased by the Chesters, and these were sold to the late Mr. Handel Cossham. It may be well, before dismissing this subject, and as a kind of a tail piece to our dry narrative, to relate a few most interesting particulars which have recently been brought to light in respect to their present worth. As already observed, the value of Kingswood in the past lay in the fact, chiefly, that it was a coal-field. But from its being so long worked, and so many old pits closed, ruins of which were visible almost everywhere, it had generally been believed that the coals of the whole area were almost, if not wholly, exhausted. This hypothesis was also the more frequently confirmed by the many coal-adventurers who came to the neighbourhood, opened a pit or two for a short while, and then suddenly discovered the works would not pay, and so collapsed.

The true reason of these failures in almost every case appears to be this—want of geological knowledge sufficient to read and follow the strata where it had been broken off by "faults" in the formation.

It needed and remained, therefore, for a gentleman possessed with a more accurate and thoroughly geological acquaintance of

the neighbourhood, and one who could also with his means test his knowledge at every step, to investigate the formation of Kingswood and pronounce upon its coal producing prospects. This has been done, and as in almost every case "the hand of the diligent maketh rich," so this gentleman has been rewarded by discovering and possessing an enormous field of coal calculated at 50,000,000 tons. Mr. Handel Cossham, the gentleman who made this discovery and who is the owner, gave an account of it before the "Bristol School of Mines." Brief extracts of his discourse, and illustrations which he displayed, show how it was found:—

Man's dominion, he says, is a pretty extensive one, as given him by his great Creator, namely, "that he should have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowls of the air, and over the cattle, and *over the earth*, and over everything that creepeth on the earth," and, I may add, over everything *under* the earth. Here is a tolerably large inheritance, and a man who cannot find plenty of scope for a short life on this estate must be rather hard to please. The only thing I find in which we are limited is in having dominion over each other, and it is in trying to get this we make such frightful mistakes, and fill the earth with lamentation and woe. But I am digressing; and to return, let me remind you that, speaking broadly and generally, the whole surface of our globe is a series of anticlinal and synclinal folds.

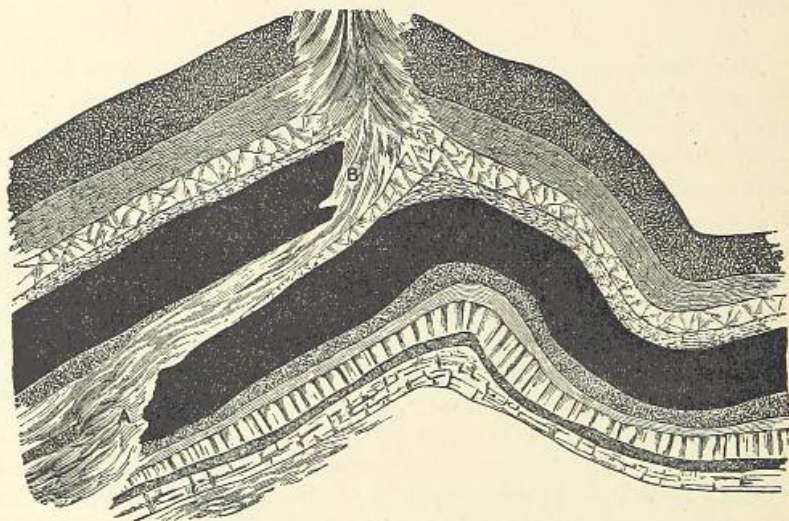
The oceans lie in the synclinal hollows of the earth's crust; and the land, and especially the mountain ranges of the globe, form the anticlinal ridges. Now, it may seem a big jump to come from broad generalisation like these to deal with the disturbances and dislocations of a small section of a coalfield, the whole area of which is under 250 square miles. But, depend upon it, it is the path of true wisdom and sound philosophy for the student of Nature to begin his study, where they say we ought to begin our charity, "at home." Try by patient investigation, constant application, and careful observation, to get a clear insight into the district where your lot is cast—follow it step by step, inch by inch—leave no problem unsolved.

I have tried to do this in the northern section of the Bristol Coalfield. My opportunities, I admit, have been great, and I have tried to make the best of them, and I want to make your study of the district easier by placing on record the results I have reached.

No one can read the faults and dislocations of this coalfield correctly who does not take into his estimate "lateral pressure," as well as vertical

upheaving and depression. For years I tried to read faults as I had been taught to do in geological books, written thirty years ago, by the law of vertical displacement. But I have found in practice, and it has caused me many an aching head to learn it, that far the greater portion of the faults met with in coal mining have to be studied and proved by remembering that the law of side, or "lateral" pressure has to be recognised quite as much, and quite as often, as the law of vertical displacement. In fact I believe that more faults are caused by *lateral* than by *vertical* pressure, what the French call PEISSMENT.

Here is a sketch or an illustration of what I mean :



In this drawing is shown the Great Vein at the Deep Pit at Kingswood, on the North side of the pit. Here the coal has been broken off at A, but who would expect to find the other broken end of the same coal at B? Now it will be manifest to the most superficial observer that vertical upheaval will in no way account for the position of the coal in this section.

Supposing a miner driving down on the coal to the point A ; he would be utterly unconscious that the same seam of coal would be found above his head ! and on reaching the end of the coal at A would naturally reason that he would probably find the seam again by driving down. But if he continued to drive to the centre of the earth, he never would find it. Supposing again the miner to be driving on the coal toward the point B, and losing the coal at B, he would naturally conclude that the coal would be again found by driving upward. But he would drive to day-light, and

never reach the coal. Here, then, we have a beautiful illustration of "Lateral pressure"; it is lateral pressure that has formed the synclinal shown on the right of the drawing, and it is lateral pressure that has thrust the seam at A, under the same vein you see rising to the point B.

In another illustration might be shown what we call the "Thirteen-Yard Fault," at Kingswood, which had never been cut or proved till some fifteen years ago, when I was successful in proving it; and nearly all the coal that has since been worked from the Kingswood Collieries—and that will certainly find work for the next two or three generations—in that district will have to be wrought beyond this Thirteen-Yard Fault, which is really a drop down on the rise side, and a push over of the strata, when the valley that forms the northern and western boundary of the parish of St. George was formed. This fault was for years regarded as the boundary of the coalfield at Kingswood on the south. In this belief the geologists of the locality, including our late friend, Mr. William Saunders, and that distinguished palæontologist, Mr. Etheridge, together with the eminent national geologists who stand at the head of the Ordnance (Geological) Survey, all lent the approval of their distinguished names and high authority, and also to the belief that between St. George's Church and the Kingswood Collieries there was a protusion of millstone grit (in other words, of the rock in Brandon Hill), and that, therefore, beyond the point where this Thirteen-Yard Fault had been struck (and where the ground was much confused and contorted) no coal would be found.

I confess it was with fear and trembling that I ventured to challenge this opinion, but I had seen indications in the district of lateral pressure, and I also thought that I could see indications on the south towards the river Avon that the coal measures were continuous and in proper *situ*. I ventured, therefore, to give effect to my reasoning by drifting in the direction that (if I was right) the coal would be found, and, after some months of patient exploration, I was rewarded by finding the large area of Great Vein coal, on which the Kingswood Colliery has ever since been working, and thus laid open to the future of that colliery (on all the seams in the district) at least 50,000,000 tons of coal yet to be worked, where for years it was thought none would be found.

I desire to take no particular credit for this discovery. I had had opportunities of investigation possessed by few. At the same time, it is well to recollect that it is possible to have the opportunity to investigate, and not to improve by it; and sure I am of one thing—neither I nor anyone else could ever have correctly read the Thirteen-Yard Fault at Kingswood, without recognising the law of "lateral pressure."

Another illustration of my theory shows the Parkfield and Coal Pit Heath basin. There is a great fault laid down with considerable accuracy

twenty-five years ago by the Geological Survey, and called the Great North and South Fault, in that district. It is one that, on the eastern (or Parkfield) side, has very greatly crushed and injured all the coal beds in the series. But that injury has been caused, as I will show you, not from the fault, but from the crush and lateral pressure to which the basin has been subjected by the thrusting in of Bristol on the west, and Wick on the east. One of the results of that side pressure has been that the basin had to give way in the centre, and at Kingswood. You have the result in the shape of an anticlinal axis. And at Parkfield the same cause has produced a synclinal, and a break-off in the strata, and also that unfortunate crush of the coal on the eastern side that has caused so large a proportion of small coal always to be made on the workings in the vicinity of this fault. But now comes the extraordinary part of the phenomena; on the south end, at Shortwood, no such fault can be traced. But on the other hand there is a series of faults, all downthrows to the west, *the very opposite of the lie of the great fault in the centre of the basin*, which is an upthrow to the west of probably 200 yards. I have no doubt that the series of faults on the south end (downthrow to the west), are the result of the same causes that have made the great fault in the centre of the basin, and if I am right in this conjecture (and I feel certain I am), then it follows that we have a scissors fault that actually crosses at some point between the centre and the south end of the basin.

It is interesting to trace the cause of this remarkable and somewhat unusual result, and I venture to think the causes can be traced to the fact that the pinch-in of the centre of the basin, as already described, produced such a jam of the strata that while the centre of the little basin fell in, the south end was elevated by the uplifting of the Pennant series that is so well developed at Rodway Hill and Mangotsfield, and may be traced round the western side of the basin, through Winterbourne to May Hill and Nibley. Let me here remind you that but for this drop-in of the Coal Pit Heath and Parkfield basin, there would have been no coal to work on this series at the northern end of the Bristol Coalfield. Here the general law of Jehovah holds good, namely, that "Partial evil is universal good."



CHAPTER XIV.

ANCIENT MANORS IN THE FOREST.

THE MANOR OF BERTUNE.

THE estates or manors, either wholly or partly within the forest area, were, according to Domesday survey, Bertune, or Bartton; Oldland; Hanham; and Bitton, or Button; Pucklechurch and Mangotsfield; Siston and Upton. Bertune, or Barton, was so-called because attached to Bristol Castle, and under the authority of its chief constable. There was the Barton proper, which provided and stored provender for the castle authorities and its military. Here, there was a market, now called the old market, and stood where the present Old Market Street stands. Also, there were stables, barns, and wood-yards. We read of the king's orchard, and three gardens and forty-three tenements, within the circuit of the walks round the castle.* The adjoining lands, now the parish of St. George's, including Upper and Lower Easton and part of Stapleton parish, received the same appellation. As the whole area was Crown lands, and part of the royal demesne of the king in this place, they were designated by the Latin name, Barton Regis and Terra Regis—the king's barton, the king's lands. The manors of the king were in all cases designated by this term of Terra Regis; and in the area of Kingswood all the lands stand under this denomination, except those lands which were held by the church or by some lord in the previous reign. Hence, it is from this fact, probably, that the name of "Kingswood" does not appear nor is mentioned in the Domesday survey. The whole area of the forest being, originally, included under the name, Terra Regis. I find in the

* M. 1673. The fee-farm rents reserved and paid annually to the Crown out of the lands belonging to the castle were purchased by Thomas Lee, of London, on behalf of the Corporation of the City of Bristol.

original extent there were about twenty-four hides, equal to about six square miles. Bertune manor was early divided, and many estates appropriated to the endowments of churches. A hospital was built early in the twelfth century on Lawrence Hill for lepers. It was dedicated to St. Lawrence. A history of Glastonbury states that this hospital was built to relieve poor pilgrims who repaired to that town in order to see the Sanctum Coemitarium, or Holy Churchyard, where was said to be deposited the bones or relics of thousands of saints, and among them Joseph of Arimathæa. King John, in 1208, confirmed divers grants of lands to the "brethren of St. Lawrence."

Many of the lands of the manor were, in all probability, given for the use and maintenance of this hospital of lepers, situated within the barton boundary on Lawrence Hill. The patronage of the mastership was also in the hands of the Crown, and was granted by Henry V. to Humphry of Gloucester. By a survey made of St. Lawrence, in the year 1629, there was a manor house in the possession of Robert Hooke, Esq., of Bristol. "The site of the house, together with the Chapel house, abutted on the London highway and Chapel lane, on the east, with St. Lawrence leeze on the north and western parts." The extent of the manor attached was two hundred and sixty-five acres and one rood. At the dissolution of the monasteries, Westbury college, under whose jurisdiction St. Lawrence's hospital was appointed, was found to be possessed of many other estates as parts of St. Lawrence's endowment. One hundred and twenty-three acres of woodland in various places, land in Siston, the tythes of Redland, Cote, and "Stocke"—Stoke. Part of Bertune, also, became attached to Tewkesbury monastery; these were the endowments of the priory of St. James, built and endowed by the Dukes of Gloucester—Fitzhardings. At the dissolution it was sold, together with the estates of Stapleton, Mangotsfield, Saltmarsh, and *Barton hundred*.

The following is a copy of the survey of Barton manor in Domesday:—

BERTUNE REGIS.

In Bertune, King Edward held nine hides. Of these seven were in demesne, and there are four ploughs and fourteen villiens, and ten

boarders with nine ploughs. There are seven serfs. Of this manor two feemen hold two hides and have there nine ploughs. They can neither sever themselves nor their lands from the manor. There is one mill at 4s. The reeve of King William accrued eight bordars and two millstones and one plough.*

This manor, together with Bristow, paid a yearly rent of one hundred and ten marks to the king,† and also thirty-three marks, and one of gold, to Bishop Godfrey, Bishop of Constance.

In the time of William the First, the Barton was taxed at six hides. This manor gave the name to the hundred. At the conquest it was, with Bristol, appendent to the honour and barony of Gloucester, held in *caput honoris*. In 1089, William Rufus gave the honour and Earldom of Gloucester, with the castle and lands, to Robert Fitz-Harding, whose daughter, "Mabile," the eldest daughter of three, married Robert, son of Henry the First; to whom the king granted the honour of Gloucester and all the estates.‡ "The church of Bristol then held three hides, as before stated, and one carucate." There was, also, one member of the estate at Mangotsfield—"In uno membro ejusdem m. Mangodesfield vi. boves in do' niv." Robert Fitz-Harding gave, also, the manor of Blacksworth as part of the endowment of St. Augustine's monastery, Bristol. This Robert is the same lord to whom Henry, before he was king, gave the manors of Bitton and Oldland, The manor of Bertune, together with the Castle of Bristol, continued in the possession of the Lords of Gloucester for 284 years; sixteen Lords possessing the honour from 915 till the first year of King John, 1199. I here append the names.

NAMES OF THE LORDS OF BRISTOL CASTLE.

- I.—Ella, died 920.
- II.—Coernicus.
- III.—Harward.
- IV.—Vincent.
- V.—Adelyn.
- VI.—Egwyn.

* Domesday.

† Barrett's History of Bristol.

‡ See Oldland manor.

VII.—Aylwardus “Sneaw,” so called from his white face. He founded a monastery at Cranbourne, in the time of Ethelward and St. Dunstane, 980. In possession of the Castle, 930.

VIII.—Adlebright.

IX.—Amstuarde.

X.—Algarr.

XI.—Leofwyn, “Son of Earl Godwyn,” granted by Edward Confessor, ninth year of his reign.

XII.—Beritric. Godwin leaving the kingdom, the Castle reverted to Beritric or Britric, brother of Algarr. He died a prisoner at Winchester.

William the First “seized the Castle and gave the pre-ferment of the Comte of Gloucester to Maud, his wife.” She held it till she died, 1084.

XIII.—Bishop Godfrey. It is next found in this ecclesiastics hands when William the First died. He was Bishop of Constance.

XIV.—William, Rufus.

XV.—Robert, son of Henry the First.*

XVI.—William, son of Robert. Died at Bristol and was buried at Keynsham Priory, which he had founded. He was conveyed privately, by night, to Keynsham.

I next give below, consecutively, the names of all the lords who held Barton manor and Kingswood forest from the last named, William, Earl of Gloucester, till the forest was separated for ever from the authorities of Bristol Castle.

KING’S REIGN.—John, Earl of Moreton - - - - 1189

Richard I.—Obtained the Honour of Gloucester by marriage with “Isabel” daughter of William, Earl of Gloucester. He divorced Isabel on becoming king, but retained the honour of Gloucester. Barton was part of that Honour, &c.

* During the wars in Stephen’s reign, in which Earl Robert took a very active part on behalf of Maud and Henry, two other Lords were appointed to the Castle of Bristol—Milo, Earl of Hereford: and Sir Bartholomew Churchill, ancestor of the Churchill family, but they were removed when Henry became king.

John, King.—John de la Warre	- - - -	1205
King John, in the sixth year of his reign, confirmed to John le Warre the grant which he had made to him before he attained the crown, of the Honour of Gloucester and Castle of Bristol, with the manor of Bristleton, a part of that honour.		
John, King.—Hugo de Hastings.		
" Hugh de Vivon	- - - -	1216
Henry III.—Ralph de Willington, October	- - -	1224
" Hugo de Burge	- - -	1229
" William, son of Hugo Talbot	- - -	1234
" Roger de Leeburne, Baron	- - -	1260
" Guavine de Bassingburne	- - -	1264
" Robert Walerande	- - -	-
" Bartholomew de Innovence	- - -	-
" Dominus Johannes de Muxgras	- - -	1271
Edward I.—Peter de la Mare	- - -	1289
Edward II.—Bartholomew de Badlesmere	- - -	1295–1309
" Hugh de Spencer (at £204 per annum)	- - -	1321
" Thomas de Bradestone and	} - - -	1325
" Michael Dune		
Edward III.—Sir Robert Knowles, granted by Queen	} - - -	1369
Phillippa		
" Sir Edward Flambarde	- - -	-
" Hugh de Segrave, August 3rd	- - -	1370
" John de Thorpe, Knt.	- - -	1375
Henry IV.—Edward, Duke of York	- - -	1402
" Hugh Lutteral	- - -	1412
Henry V.—Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester	- - -	1415
Henry VI.—Richard, Earl of Warrick	- - -	1436
" John Saint Loce.	- - -	1443
" Henry, Duke of Warwick	- - -	1446
" Edward, eldest son of Duke of Gloucester	- - -	1460
Edward IV.—Sir Humphrey Stafford, of Hooke	- - -	1462
Richard III.—Edward, Plantagenet, and	} possessed it from	{ 1474
" George, Duke of Clarence		
Henry VII.—Giles Daubeney, Knt.	- - -	1485

Henry VII.—Anne, Countess of Warwick & Henry VII.	1487
" Lord Maurice Berkeley. Granted by Henry VII. - - - - -	1508
Henry VIII.—Lord Maurice Berkeley. A new grant by King Henry VIII. - - - - -	1511
" Sir Francis Pointz - - - - -	1523
" Sir Anthony Pointz - - - - -	1525
" Queen Catherine. By an Act of Parliament there was granted to this Queen, in lieu of dower, castle, manor, hundred, forests, chases, and woods, and all property belonging thereto. Lady Day - - -	1543
" Henry Braine. Queen Catherine demised her possession to H. Braine by Indenture, March 2nd, 1st Edward VI., for twenty-one years - - - - -	1547
Edward VI.—Earl of Pembroke and William Clarke. For the sum of £8,440 7s. 2½d., it appears King Edward the Sixth granted the lordship and manor of Barton Regis, near Bristol (Ap. 27th), to this Earl and Clarke - - - Document dated	1564

In this sale the forest of Kingswood was not included, and the Earl of Pembroke never claimed the forest, or chase, as it was now designated.

The next owner of the manor of Barton was Sir Maurice Dennis, but he had nothing in the chase, as appears by his inquisition postmortem, 1565. From that year, therefore, when the manor was sold to the Earl of Pembroke, 1564, the history of Kingswood is divorced from that of Bristol Castle, and seems to have played a part, subsequently, very much after the manner of the "weaker and despised vessel" when put out of court. For, after this time, the extensive manor of Barton Regis, together with Kingswood Chase, was all claimed and divided between a number of persons under the name of "Liberties." Some of these claimants seem only to have been adventurers who came into the neighbourhood to cut or dig pit coal. They adopted the name of "Liberties" from the fact that, in the past, each king

then in power gave liberty by mandate to certain lords of manors, or other privileged persons, to cut wood for their own use, or to hunt and kill game for a certain time; such persons were said to hold "Liberties." But there is no document to show that these men had a single right to be there, or a claim to an inch of the soil. They managed, however, to filch all the land from the crown, and had each large estates.

Hence the next owner of Bitton manor, who became possessed of it 1610, Mr. Thomas Chester, claimed therewith a large Liberty in Kingswood. It included the whole of St. Philip's parish, now St. George's, a total of eight hundred and eighty acres. St. Philip's and St. Jacob's parishes, in this place, were formerly one parish, the ancient church being situated considerably more eastward than the present one. It was a religious house or priory of the order of St. Benedict. It seems to have been built for the use of those about the castle and barton—those who then frequented the old market. On a stone in the church was a figure of a crossbow and a dog, and round its verge the following inscription cut, viz.—"Thomas Pulty, some time keeper of the Queen's Forest. 1596"—showing that the foresters of Kingswood were not unmindful of the church. An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1751 for dividing this parish into two, and also for the erection of new parish church—a step the wisdom of which is clearly seen in the wise forethought of good Bishop Butler. Barton was undergoing marvellous changes even in his day, indicating, no doubt, somewhat of what it would become and now is. Steadily from that time to this, house to house and street to street have been added until, not unlike Charles Dickens's "brick baby in long clothes," it has considerably outgrown itself, stretching far beyond its legitimate baby strings, and must ere long again add considerable "brick skirts," in order to make room for its rapid increase of population.



CHAPTER XV.

THE MANOR OF BITTON, OR BUTTON.

THIS Manor I mention next, as the names of Bertune and Bitton are frequently confounded. The manor, it is supposed, takes its name from the little river that runs in the village, the river Boyd, hence called Boyd-Town, corrupted into Bitton. In the Domesday Survey it is called "Betune." It was also Terra-Regis—the king's land; and was held at the time of the Conquest by one Dons, a Saxon. There were two hides—"Ibi duo hidæ" "*Una ex his geldebat, alia ad ecclesiam pertinebit.*" One had gelded; the other belonged to the church.

The following is a copy of Domesday record:

Glowcesterscire.

Terra Regis. (F. 152^b).

In Svinheve hundredo erant tempore Regis Edwardi ad firmam triginta sex hidæ in Betune cum duobus membris Wasselei et Wintreborne. In domino erant quinque carucæ et quadraginta sex villani et viginti novem boardarii cum quadraginta quinque carucis. Ibi octodecim servi cum uno molino.

The next entry in Domesday is transcribed thus:

Terræ Teinorum Regis. (F. 170^b LXVIII.)

. In Sineshovedes Hundredo. Dons tenet de rege Betune. Ipse tennit tempore Regis Edwardi. Ibi duo hidæ. Una ex his geldebat. Alia ad ecclesiam pertinebit. In domino sunt duo carucæ et quinque villani et duo bardarii cum quinque carucis. Ibi quatuor servi et decem acræ. prati. Valuit sex libras modo tres libras.

In Swineshead hundred. Dons holds of the king Bitton. He held it in the time of King Edward. There are two hides. One has gelded. The other belongs to the church.

In demesne there are two ploughs, and five villagers and two sojourners with five ploughs. There are four slaves and ten acres of pasture.

Who succeeded Dons, the Saxon lord in Bitton, I cannot trace; but in the year 1151, it belonged to Robert Fitzharding. It appears by a charter in the Muniment Room in Berkeley Castle, that Robert Fitzharding, as a reward for his services to the Empress Maud, and her son, Duke Henry, obtained, with other estates, the manor of Bitton. As Robert, the Earl of Gloucester, died in the year 1147, it is probable this charter was made either in the interest of the empress herself, the king's mother, or else the copy is wrongly dated.

When the duke, Henry, became king, he afterwards granted another charter, in which the Bitton manor is omitted, it having been aliened to Robert of Hanham. The son of this man Robert—called Robert of Berkeley, enfeoffed one of the other relatives to seignory—Robert d'Amneville of Bitton. Thus the lands were retained.

There lived a family of some note here, by the latter name of d'Amneville. Adam d'Amneville had the manor of Bitton from Henry II. at the service of a knight's fee, and there is no doubt but that this family succeeded to the estates, and supplanted the Saxon lords at the time of the Conquest. This Adam d'Amneville, worthy knight of Bitton, and who lies buried there, had two sons, both named Robert. One of them possessed lands at Hanham, and, according to the fashion of the times, called himself after its name, Robert of Hanham—"Robert de Hanham": the other, holding to the Bitton estate, called himself "Robert de Bitton." This last Robert was the ancestor of the Bitton family—a family noted for ecclesiastical matters, and which produced three bishops. Robert of Bitton had two daughters, each named Petronella. The elder married William de Putot, a sheriff of Gloucester. He held estates at Mangotsfield, an adjoining parish to Bitton; and founded a charity there. The Putots left an only daughter, named after her mother Petronella. This lady married first, Baron de Vivon, by whom she had a son. Being left a widow, she married next David le Blund, or Blount; by whom she had a second son. To this son, and this son only, she left all her estates at Bitton and Mangotsfield. It was thought that as her first husband, Hugh de Vivon, had estates in other parts of the country, the first son inherited

them, and did not need those of Bitton and Mangotsfield. However, we find there was a lawsuit in the year 1287 at Gloucester between the two half-brothers, John de Vivon and David le Blund, by which the former endeavoured to possess himself of the Bitton and other estates, but the jury gave a verdict in favour of David le Blund.

COPY OF LAW PROCEEDINGS AT GLOUCESTER.

I. Placita de Juratis et Assisis coram Will'o de Saham, Ricardo de Boyland, Rogero Loveday, et Johanne de Mettingham, Justiciariis Itinerantibus, apud Gloucester in crastino clausi Pasche anno Regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Henrici quintodecimo. [A.D. 1287].

Gloucester XV. Saham.*

Assisa venit recognita si Petronilla de Vivonia, mater Johannis de Vyvonia, fuit seysita in dominico suo ut de feodo de uno messuagio et duabus carucatis terræ cum pertinentiis in Button die quo &c. quem messuagium et terram David le Blunt et Amabilla uxor ejus tenent. Qui venerunt. Et nihil dicunt quare assisa remaneat nisi tantum quod dicunt quod predicta Petronilla de cujus morte, &c. non obit seysita de predictis tenementis in dominico suo ut de feodo.

Dicunt enim quod eadem Petronilla tenementa predicta simul cum aliis tenuit de Domino Rege in capite, et quod eadem Petronilla per longum tempus ante mortem suam, de assensu et voluntate Domini Regis nunc, ipsos David et Amabillam de tenementis predictis feoffavit et in plenarium seysinam posuit. Et de hoc ponent se super assisam, &c. Et profert quandam cartam sub nomine predictæ Petronille, quæ predictum feoffamentum testatur, et similiter litteras Domini Regis nunc quæ testantur quod ipsa Petronilla de licencia ipsius Domini Regis nunc ipsos David et Amabillam feoffavit, &c.

Et Johannes dicit quod qualiscunque prelocutio facta fuit quod predicta Petronilla feoffasse debuit predictos David et Amabillam de tenementis predictis, seu qualiscunque cartam eis inde fecit, quod ipso Petronilla nunquam se de tenementis illis dimisit aut statum suum mutavit. Immo bona et catalla sua semper in eodem messuagio semper remanserunt (et cum caruis suis terram aravit et seminavit) et quod eadem Petronilla seysinam suam usque mortem suam continuavit, et inde obiit seysita in dominico suo ut de feodo. Et quod ita sit petit quod inquiretur per assisam. Et David et Amabilla similiter. Ideo capiatur assisa, &c.

Jurati dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predicta Petronilla de

licencia Domini Regis nunc feoffavit predictos David et Amabillam de predictis tenementis cum omnimodis mobilibus et bladis infra predicta tenementa existentibus, excepto uno palefrido tantum quem sibi reservavit, et se par sex septimanas de predictis tenementis elongavit. Et dicunt quod postea eadem Petronilla ad predicta tenementa non ut Domina tenementorum, immo ad predictos David et Amabillam visitandos ut amica communis accessit, et ibidem infirmabatur, ita quod eadem Petronilla quodam die Lunæ ne seysinam quam predictis David et Amabillæ fecerāt interromperet, se elongari fecit et portari usque domum Vicarii predictæ villæ et in eâdem domo die Sabbati sequenti obit. Quesiti si blada et alia bona in predictis tenementis existencia post mortem predictæ Petronillæ devenerunt in manus executorum predictæ Petronillæ seu in manus predictorum David et Amabillæ, dicunt quod bona et blada et alia quæcumque integre devenerunt per feoffamentum predictum in manus ipsorum David et Amabillæ absque hoc quod ipsa Petronilla in vita sua seu executores sui post mortem suam se in aliquo intromiserunt. Unde dicunt precise quod predicta Petronilla non obiit seysita de predictis tenementis in dominico suo ut de feodo, et ideo consideratum est quod predicta David et Amabilla eant inde sine die, et quod prædictus, Johannes nichil capiat per assisam istam sed sit in misericordia pro falso clamore, &c.

Petronella, the other daughter of Robert d'Amneville, married Nicholas Oxenhaye, who held the other manor of Oldland. He died without issue, and the Oldland estates were aliened to De la More. See History of Oldland.



CHAPTER XVI.

THE MANOR OF OLDLAND.

THIS Manor is returned as being held at the time of the Conquest by "Osbern, Bishop of Exeter," and is called Aldeland. Subsequently, it became attached to the Bitton estates, and was held sometime by the same lords. I here give a transcript of the Domesday survey. The Earl Alwin, Harold's man, mentioned in it, was also lord of the manor of Optune, or Upton, which adjoins the manors of Bitton and Oldland.

Terra Episcopi Osberni.

In sineshovedes Hundredo Episcopus de Excestre tenet Aldelande.

*Allui tenuit, homo Heraldi comitis et porterat ire quo volebat. (Earl Alwin held it, Earl Harold's man, and he could go where he pleased.) Ibi duo hidæ una geldebat alia non. In domino sunt duo carucæ et unus villanus et sex bordarii (sojourners) cum una caruca. Ibi duo servi (serving men) et decem acræ prati. Nunc valuit quatuor libras modo quadraginta solidos.**

This manor was the heart of the forest.

The manors of Bitton and Oldland having been given to Robert Fitzharding, the lordship of these manors became subject to the Barony of Berkeley; and consequently, as Berkeley also was under the jurisdiction of the superior lords, the Earls of Gloucester, the Bitton and Oldland estates were part of that honour.

The Hardings were the ancestors of the Berkeley family. In the year 1066, a Harding who was a magistrate and a rich merchant in Bristol, held the manor of Wheatenhurst, in the

* See Domesday, fol. 165, v.

hundred of Whiston, in Gloucestershire, in mortgage of the Saxon Earl Britric.

The honour of Gloucester came to the Hardings through the gift of the king, William Rufus, as follows:—

William Rufus, who, in consideration of the great services done by his gentleman of the bedchamber, Robert Fitz Haymon, against the Norman faction stirred up in favour of his brother Robert, gave him the honour and Earldom of Gloucester, till his death, 1107; with all the liberties formerly enjoyed by the Saxon Earl Britric. This Robert Fitz Haymon left four daughters, and no male issue. Mabile, the eldest of these daughters, married Robert, a natural (base) son of Henry I., which he had by Nesta, a daughter of Rees Prince, of South Wales. Henry, unwilling to divide the honour of Gloucester among the four daughters of Robert Fitz Haymon, conferred the whole on the eldest, Mabile and his son Robert, and created him Earl of Gloucester.*

Some other notes of the Earl of Gloucester are given under the Bitton and Oldland manors.

Besides the interesting matter of these manors under the lordships of Berkeley and Gloucester, there was a distinct

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE

IN OLDLAND AND UPTON,

which was also an offset of the honour of Gloucester. In the townships the freemen were enrolled in tythings, so called from containing ten free families, in which every member was responsible for the orderly behaviour of the rest; a system of police, named Frankpledge. It was not universal; only certain places possessed view of Frankpledge. It was a Court Leet held once a year, to view the sureties or frankpledges for good behaviour of each other, and to inflict punishment for minor offences. Within the jurisdiction of this honour are Beach, Upton Cheyney, Barrs Court, Oldland, and Hanham.

The ancient Court Rolls of these holdings are among the MSS. in the possession of Lord Bagot, at Blithfield.

Sayer says, the honour of Gloucester was first possessed by Alward Sneaw, a Mercian nobleman, in the reign of Athelstan,

* Barrett.

who succeeded 925.* This honour was used for the more noble sort of seignories, whereof other inferior lordships or manors did depend. None were honours originally but such as belonged to the king, howbeit they may after be bestowed upon other nobles.† It was an honour attended with considerable wealth.

Henry II. held the honour of Frankpledge in Oldland and Upton as part of the honour of Gloucester, which he sold to Geoffry de Mandeville, Earl of Essex. On this earl's death it devolved to Gilbert, son of Richard de Clare.‡ It appears by the Hundred Roll, p. 175, that this court or view was held by Gilbert de Clare, 1275, in these words:—"The jury say that Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, now living, has taken away the suit and service of persons at Hanham, and many others of the manor of Bitton, who were accustomed to come to a view of Frankpledge twice a year at the Court of Bitton for six years."

David le Blund and Stephen de la More had the like view in their manor at Bitton. From the Clares the honour passed to the Earls of Stafford. In the time of Edward III. Ralph, Earl of Stafford held, in right of Margaret, his wife, the manor Mombury, and a view of Frankpledge at Oldlande, parcel of the honour of Gloucester.§

Hugh, Earl of Stafford, held the same, and one-third of a knight's fee in Oldlande, Upton, and Breche, 10th Richard II. ||

During the same reign (Richard) Thomas, Earl of Stafford, was "seized of a view of Frankpledge at Oldland, value 13g and 4d. Subsequently, Edmund, Earl of Stafford, held the same. He was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury, July 21st, 1403."

In the reign of Henry the Sixth, Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, held the honour. He was slain at the battle of Northampton, 1460. His successor—also, Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was beheaded by Richard III., at Salisbury, without judge or jury. Both of these dukes held the view of Frankpledge at Oldland.

* Sayer's Bristol. † Cowell. ‡ Fosbrooke Glouc. vol. i. p. 126.

§ Ellacombe, Inq. P. M. 62. 46th Ed. III. (1372).

|| Inq. 10th Rich. II.

Edward Stafford was the next duke. He was beheaded for high treason, 1521. All his estates were forfeited to the king; but in 1547, his son and heir, Henry Stafford, was restored in blood, and so the honour continued in the family till 1776; when the honour of Gloucester was sold to Edward, Duke of Norfolk, by the Earl of Stafford for twenty-four thousand pounds. There were excepted, however, the manor or "reputed manor, liberty, or fee of Oldland, in the County of Gloucestershire, lying in Oldland, Hanham, Upton Cheyney, or any of them." By the same deed these lands were "conveyed to the use of Henry Thomas Howard and his son in tail male."

The successive owners of Oldland manor thus, may be traced back to the year 1292, when it had passed, apparently, by purchase to Richard de la More, he having bought it from Nicholas and Petronella Oxenhaye. Richard de la More died s. p. 1292, seised of Oldland, and a capital messuage, and other property. It then passed, in the successive possession of several heirs and heiresses of the More family to Sir John Deverose, who died seised of the manor, 1419. From Sir John Deverose it passed through the Wykis family, and hence to Edward Colthurst and Weston of Bristol, who sold it to Mr. Richard Jones, for the sum of £1,854 10s., on whose death, 1697, it came to Thomas Trye by will, much encumbered, and greatly *dismembered*.* In the records authorizing the sale of this manor, its extent is described as 15 messuages, 10 gardens and orchards, 300 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow land, 200 acres of pasture and of wood, 300 acres of heath, with common of pasture for all sorts of cattle in Hannam, Down Hanam, West Hanam, Oldland, and Bitton.

It is supposed the ancient manor house of Oldland stood near Willsbridge,† on the site where Mr. John Pearsall built a fair house of residence about 1730, and mills for rolling and splitting hoop-iron, in whose family it remained till about 1816. The old house stood by the side of the mill-clack brook, with gable

* Ellacombe, *His. Bitton*.

† Rev. T. Ellacombe says:—"Aged persons have told me the manor house stood there." Mr. Ellacombe died 1889, aged 90.

and dormer windows. It was remarkable for rich carving, elaborate ceilings and wainscoting.

Another member of this family built a residence on the other side of the road, opposite a noted public well, called Goldswell.

The reputed manor house, and which is now so-called, is Hanham Hall—a house built by Mr. Richard Jones, in 1655.

In April, 1726, Mr. Trye received permission to sell his property.* It was purchased by K. Webley, Esq., of London, whose daughter and heiress, then a widow, sold it to Mr. Emerson, who again, in 1803, sold it to Samuel Whittuck, Esq., in whose family it now remains, and who reside in the reputed Manor Hall.

There are some interesting houses and persons connected with this manor, to which we shall refer in our notes on ancient villages.



* A Bill received the Royal Assent for this, April 26th, 1726.

CHAPTER XVII.

ANCIENT MANORS.

THE MANOR OF HANHAM ABBOTS.

THE original extensive manor of Hanham was early divided, and is now known by the names of East Hanham and West Hanham; the latter being known, also, as Hanham Abbots. East Hanham was wholly within the forest area.

In the Domesday survey I find this entry:—

Terra Ernulfi de Hesding . . . In Sineshovedes Hundreds. Idem Hernulfus tenet Hannon et Humbaldus de eo. Edric tenuit. Ibi dimedia hida. In dominio sunt duo camcae cum octo bardariis et quatuor servis. Valet et valuit quadraginta solidos.

According to this entry, Earnulf de Hesding held Hanham in the time of the conquest. He was succeeded by Robert of Hanham, and then by Salso Marisco, of Saltmarsh. It is proved by a lawsuit that this person held his lands under the superior lord of Oldland.* The question had been tried whether the wardship of John de Salso Marisco, belonged to David Blount, or to Richard de la More, owner of the moiety called Oldland. The jury decided in favour of De la More. When this manor was divided, the moieties were called "medietas manerii de Button vocata Button, and medietas manerii de Button vocata Oldland."

We find West Hanham in the possession of Salso Marisco in 1325, when it was first so-called *West Hanham*, in a fine relating to John and Hawise de Button.

Marisco sold the manor, in 1329, to William de la Green and John Bagworth, who, the following year, gave the manor to the abbot and convent of Keynsham.† There was a capital messuage,

* Assize, 15th Ed. I., 1287.

† Inq. ad. qd. d. 4th Ed. III. Nos. 80-120.

which is now called *Hanham Court*. The walls of the house, especially the cellars, are very massive and ancient. There is also a little early chapel adjoining this mansion, with a late Norman font, and a more curious Norman piscina.*

At the dissolution, the manor of West Hanham, also called Hanham Abbots, was surrendered to the Crown by Abbot John, 30th Henry VIII.† In 1553, 2nd and 3rd of Phillip and Mary, the Crown sold the reversion to Rowland Hayward, subject to a lease for twenty-one years to Ursula Gresly. Two years later, 1555, Hayward sold it to John Reed, who dismembered the manor by sale of divers lands for a thousand years. Again, the next year, 1556, Hayward sold the manor house and 1,470 acres of land to John Lacy, of London and Bristol. Lacy had a house at Fulham where Queen Elizabeth used to visit him. In 1633 the Lacys sold it to T. Colston, of Bristol. Francis Henry Creswicke bought it in 1638, in whose family it remained for two hundred and four years. It then came into the possession of John White, of Bedford Row, London, Esqr., 1842, and at his death, 1869, Mr. G. W. Hancock, of Bath, bought it for the sum of £15,050. There is a house in this manor called the Grange, which lies on the south side of the high road boundary, with about thirty-five acres of land. This house was occupied by Mr. Edmund Stone, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In 1680 it became the possession of Sir Richard Hart, Knight, in whose family it remained till 1753. It was subsequently held by the Bristol Brass and Copper Company, and James Emerson, of Hanham, brass and spelter maker. In 1840, Samuel Whittuck, the lord of the other manors, bought the estate and had the old Elizabethan Grange House pulled down and a new house built on its site.

There was another house of interest in West Hanham, which is now a farm house. It is called Londonderry. "I believe it is a corruption of Londoners, by which it was once known."‡ Mr. Richard Jones bought this house, 1666, as "a roveless tenement," and called it "Burnt House," afterwards called "Brand House." Mr. Jones built a gentleman's residence here, which he sold to

* Ellacombe His. Bit. † 8th Rep. of Dep. Keeper, 25. ‡ Ellacombe.

Thomas Coster Esq., M.P. for Bristol. In 1770, the Kennett and Avon Canal Company possessed it.

As a good deal has been written about a family who possessed Hanham Abbots, and who held the manor for over two hundred years, I refer to the Creswicke family, it will be appropriate here to make a few observations.

This family, unfortunately, obtained a notoriety from many causes, and which have all been set in the foreground as the reasons for the disgrace which attended some of them, the loss of their property, their perpetual trials and sufferings, and the entire extinction of the race and name. I have failed to find in all these circumstances, or in the history of their various trials, the reason "why" or the "wherefore" the family has been held up to so much obloquy. But I have discovered that in almost every age there existed a bitter feeling and animosity against them. As to some members of the family getting into disgrace, and being imprisoned, the history of most families of those times, through a course of such years, is likely to have a similar index. I think, however, there is a strong reason for this prejudice against the Creswicks in the fact of their holding the kind of property they did. It is a fact which most readers of the case have overlooked, that the whole of their property was Hanham Abbots; or property which was thought to have been, in some manner, filched from the church: and an old writer, who has lately written about this place, talks a great deal about the "infelicity of sacrilege." If he had not written in his dotage no one could have forgiven him.

The family of Creswicks were an honourable family of Bristol, who were merchants. Francis Creswicke, 1638, bought part of Hanham, of Thomas Colston, Esq. He died September, 1649, and is said to be buried at St. Werburgh, Bristol. Barrett's History of Bristol, which gives an account of the persons buried at St. Werburgh's, does not notice this, and is silent as to any Creswicke being buried there. Sir Henry Creswicke, was mayor of Bristol, 1660, possessed Hanham Abbots. He was knighted by Charles II. at Bristol, 1663. Sir Henry was sheriff, 1643, or during the troublesome times, and disaffection against the king. The previous year, 1642, the mayor and sheriffs had been sent

prisoners to Taunton Goal. Henry Creswicke was then elected mayor, and although the year is a record of riot and bitter opposition to the king, the mayor seems to have held to and acted loyally towards his gracious Sovereign. Accordingly, when Charles the Second came into power, we find him in 1660 creating Henry Creswicke a knight for his honourable services. Joseph Creswicke, a brother, was also sheriff, 1666, and in 1679 elected mayor. Another member of this family, a man of eminence, was Doctor Samuel Creswicke, doctor of divinity, 1727. He was Dean of Bristol, 1730, and afterwards translated to the deanery of Wells. He held the cure of St. James', Bristol, from 1727 to 1753; he held it under the patronage of the Corporation of Bristol.

Francis Creswicke, son of Sir Henry, was the unfortunate gentleman who got into trouble about the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, 1685. He lived at Hanham Court, and was accused of corresponding with the rebels, and in favour of Monmouth's cause. He was charged with high treason, and with many others was confined in Gloucester gaol. There were a number of ignorant witnesses, some of whom appear to have been bribed by Newton, an adjoining landowner. The prosecution seems to have lost all heart for proceeding in the trial, and Creswicke was liberated by a *Noli prosequi*. In the year 1686 King James visited Henry Creswicke, at Hanham Court, and was honourably entertained under a large and splendid tree in the garden. It appears that a few years after this event he went to Ireland on a special business, when he got into trouble. When coming from church on Sunday, in Dublin, he stabbed R. Rochford, Esq., the attorney-general. He was imprisoned for many years, but died at Hanham, aged 89, 1732. He appears to have been a man of intelligence and education, superior to that of the resident gentry in the neighbourhood. He had graduated early at Oxford, with honours; and he moved in a circle altogether outside those in proximity to his home—Hanham Court. He married the daughter of an alderman of London; and the Lord Mayor's widow was one who zealously petitioned the king on behalf of her brother-in-law's release while he was in prison. Through the rapacity of the owners of Kingswood Chase,

especially the family of Newtons, he and his heirs were constantly at law; and it is to this cause, and the position in which he moved, that he and his estate became heavily involved in debt. Gossipers had, in some manner, previous to Monmouth's advent in Hanham or Keynsham, brought Henry Creswicke under the umbrage of the king. It is certain the king had been displeased with him; but this had all blown away. When, however, the Duke of Monmouth came to Keynsham, and located his soldiers in Sydenham meadows, on Creswicke's own estate of Hanham Abbots, it afforded another and splendid opportunity of raising the old cry of disaffection and disloyalty against him, and thus to ruin him. Creswicke's letters, written at Thornbury, clearly show the bitterness of "his neighbourly adversaries, and he wonders what malice will not invent."

The manor was heavily mortgaged, and the successors could never redeem it. Thomas White, of London, at last executed release of the equity of redemption and resided at Hanham from 1846 till his death 1869. The present owner, who purchased the estate from Mr. G. W. Hancock, of Bath, is Mr. G. Gerrard. Perhaps as the Creswicks are all gone, and the property all gone (from them), although they obtained it honourably enough, the "infelicity of sacrilege" has gone too.

The last of this family, Henry Creswicke, married Sarah Ann, daughter of George Burgess, who kept the White Hart Inn, Keynsham. Henry was baptized in 1805. They went to Canada.



CHAPTER XVIII.

ANCIENT MANORS IN THE FOREST.

THE MANOR OF EAST HANHAM.

EAST Hanham, so-called from its relative position to the other manors, is first mentioned in a record, in the year 1348. In this record, the widow, Hawise de Button, conveyed the estates to John and Alice Delarobe for her life. This Hawise left three daughters and one son: Mathew, Elizabeth, Beatrice, and Maud. The property passed by the male heirs to Sir John Button, who left an only daughter, Katharine. She married Thomas Rugge, who also left an only daughter, Jane. This lady married first, Robert Greyndour, Esq., of Newland, Forest of Dean—where he was buried; secondly, she married Sir John Barr, of Rotherwas, in the county of Hereford. On Lady Barr's death, without issue, in the year 1485, East Hanham estates reverted to the descendants of the co-heiresses of Sir John de Button,—Maud, Elizabeth, and Beatrix. Maud was first married to William de la More, and, secondly, Simon Bassett; Elizabeth married Philip Hampton, and Beatrix married George Strode. The descendants of these were co-heirs on the death of Lady Barr, and by inquisition, taken on the death of the Lady, were found to be—Robert Basset, aged 50; William Strode, aged 40; Lucy Chokke, Johanna Chokke, Elizabeth Chokke, children of Elizabeth Hampton, but who had each married a Chokke. Lucy Hampton, who first married Thomas Chokke, was married secondly to Sir Thomas Newton, a second son of Sir John Newton, of Wyke, in the parish of Yatton, in Somersetshire. His grandfather was Sir Richard Newton, who took the name, Newton, from his native place in Wales, "Tre-Newydd," the Welsh word for Newton. These three distinguished persons are

said to have been buried, although I think on slight evidence, in Somersetshire. First, Sir Richard Newton, *alias* Caradoc, the first of the name, was interred in the Wyke aisle of Yatton parish church. Sir John Newton, his eldest son, was also buried at the same place. Sir Thomas Newton, the brother who married Lucy Hampton, widow of Thomas Chokke, according to the same authority, was also interred at Yatton. The next descendant was Sir John Newton, son of Sir Thomas, whom Leland mentions, in his "Itinerary," as dwelling at Hanham, and who died 1568. According to the like evidence above, this Sir John was carried over the Mendip Hills and buried at East Harptree.* Thus neither the first nor the second of these "Sir Newtons," owners of East Hanham, are buried in Bristol Cathedral as has been supposed. If this be true, some of the monuments in the Cathedral are most sadly and most inaccurately inscribed.

We must now return to the history of the manor. Lady Barr's estates were divided among her heiresses' descendants. Robert Bassett inherited the manor of Upton Chaun; George Strode's descendants inherited the estates in Somerset and Dorset; and Lucy Hampton's descendants, the Newtons, possessed East Hanham, in which Barr's Court, Lady Barr's mansion, was situated.

Sir John Newton, who was buried at East Harptree, married Margaret, daughter of Sir H. Poyntz. They had the very numerous family of nineteen children—thirteen daughters and five sons. The eldest, Sir Henry Newton, married Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Paston, Knight, Gloucester. This Sir Henry, and his lady were, according to some authorities, the *first* Newtons interred in Bristol Cathedral, 1599. Sir John Newton, with his large family, was the Newton who lived at Barr's Court when Leland paid his visit there about the year 1540. He describes it as "a fayre old mannar place of stone." "At this Hannam dwellyth one Sir John Newton." "The forest of Kyngeswodd cummyth just onto Barris Court, Mastar Newton's house."†

* The view of H. T. Ellacombe.

† Itin., Vol. vii., p. 37.

This Sir John Newton inherited from Hampton an old castle called Richmond, erected on a rock "in the rote of Mendip," three miles from Wells, and in the parish of East Harptree. "There standeth yet" (writes Leland) "a pece of the dungeon of it. Sir John Newton dygged up many olde foundations of it, toward buyldinge of a new house hard thereby, caullyd Estewood." *

The father of Sir John, who is styled "of Richmond Castle," in the Countie of Somerset, Knyght, had a "confirmation" of his arms† granted him in 1567, by which it was declared that he might bear "twelve several coates" or quarterings, as follows:—

Cradoc or Newton, Sherborne, Angle.

Pirot, Harvie, Chedder.

Hampton, Bitton, Furneaux.

Caudicot, Gourney, Harptree.

The same document conferred a crest—"A King of the Moors armed in mail, crowned gold, kneeling upon his left knee rendering up his sword"; "the same being fabulously asserted to have been the crest of Sir Auncell Corney, or Gourney, his ancestor, said to have been present at the winning of Acon with King Richard the First, where he took prisoner the King of the Moors."

These are the same arms which appear on the stone carving still preserved at Barr's Court; they also represent the same quarterings as those on the monument of Sir Thomas Newton, in the Bristol Cathedral.

1. Newton arms—Argent on a chevron azure, three garbs or.
2. Sherborne—Ermine, three lozenges fesswise sable.
3. Angle—Or, four fusils fesswise azure, over all a bend gules.
4. Pyrott—Gules, three pears or.
5. Harvey—Sable, billeté, a lion rampant or.
6. Chedder—A chevron ermine between three escallops argent.
7. Hampton—Azure, a bend between six fleurs de lis or.
8. Bitton—Ermine, a fess gules.

* Record of House of Gourney, p. 696.

† Bristol Vol. Arch. Insts., p. 239.

9. Furnaux—Gules, a bend between six crosses (sometimes cross crosslets) or.

10. Caudicot—Sable, on a chevron between three trees uprooted or, an eagle displayed of the first.

11. Gurney—Paly of six or, and azure. NOTE.—The Gurney arms of Harptree are, Paly of eight or.

12. Harptree—Or, a saltire flory azure.

The Newtons, of Barr's Court, had their place of sepulture in the Cathedral Church of Bristol, a transept being named the Newton Chapel; here are many costly monuments erected to their memories. The oldest monument was defaced in the times of the Civil Wars. It was supposed that this monument was erected to the memory of Sir Richard Newton Cradock, the first of the Newton family.

We come now to a period in the history of East Hanham and Barr's Court which is not a little curious. It begins with the first Newton who was created a baronet. In the Cathedral of Bristol was erected a grand and costly monument to this gentleman, Sir John Newton, Bart. On the tomb is his effigy in full armour; he is bare-headed, the right hand holding a truncheon, the left hand extended by his side, and resting on his sword. The head is placed on a large cushion. In the rear the monument was raised to a great height, two twisted columns of black marble, with Corinthian capitals, supporting an architrave, above which is a shield of arms: Argent on a chevron azure three garbs or; impaling party per pale or and gules, an eagle displayed azure, for *Stone*. On the other side of the shield are two female figures, in the place of supporters; and, crowning the whole, is the crest of the kneeling Moorish king, as on other monuments of the family.

It appears that the inscriptions became defaced, but Barrett, in his History of Bristol, has preserved a copy of them:—

"Here lyeth the body of Sir Jno. Newton, Bart. son of Sir Theodore Newton, Kt. and his Lady Grace, daughter of Stone, esq. who died without issue, 1661."

On a second Tablet:

"He was a man of great courage, and the greatest loyalty to his Prince, an honour to his country, a credit and noble ornament to name and family."

Arms:

"Party per pale or and gules, an eagle with two heads displayed counterchanged azure and or, for Stone."

This worthy baronet having no heir natural, adopted for the same a gentleman in Hadon, of Lincolnshire, having the same name as himself—Newton; but of no relationship whatever. Barr's Court and West Hanham, therefore, henceforth were owned by a family of Newtons entirely distinct from the family of Newtons who held them heretofore. To accomplish this, the new heir, Sir John Newton, had to get letters patent, copies of which are extant, and which were granted 12th Charles II.* The first baronet died 1661, and the new Lincolnshire esquire succeeded to the dignity. Dame Grace Newton, widow, was living many years after this in Hanham. The second baronet, Sir Thomas Newton, from Lincolnshire, died 1699. He was interred at Bitton Church. The third baronet, Sir John Newton, son and successor, married first Abigail, daughter of William Heveningham, a Norfolk esquire; secondly, Susanna, widow of Sir John Bright, Bart., of Badsworth, in Yorkshire, by whom he had a son, Michael. This Sir Michael was the fourth and last baronet of East Hanham. Sir Michael pulled down Barr's Court in 1740, and, having no children, the baronetcy became extinct.

An extent of the demesne lands of Barr's Court, and entitled "Hannam," will be found, in a long roll of parchment twenty feet long or more, in the British Museum. It was made 10th Henry VI. for Robert Greyndour. It gives the names of the tenants, and the terms on which they held their lands and dwellings. Several of the tenants were to mow and make hay, and reap and carry corn for the manor lord, for a certain number of days. Some held what were called Monday-lands, involving working for the lord of the manor every Monday. Customary reapers were to be paid twopence a day, and every mower one mark. The names of all the common fields in the neighbourhood are given.†

* Pat. Rolls, 12th Charles II., par. 7.

† Hannam in Addit. MSS. 12.266, 18267 2.

CHAPTER XIX.

ANCIENT MANORS.

DOWNE-HANHAM AND HANHAM PRIOR.

ACCORDING to Dugdale, Humfry de Buhun and his wife gave a small estate, called Down-Hanham to the Farleigh Priory, Wiltshire, in the reign of Henry III., in "perpetuam elemosinam." This gift was the freest and the least fettered of any of the feudal tenures. According to Blackstone, the grantees held the donatum for ever, under the very easy service of praying for the soul of the donor, if dead, or for his welfare, if living. Dugdale gives a copy of second charter by Henry III. confirming the former gift. He there describes the estate as "one virgate of land in Button, which is called Puriland (Prior-land) with all that belongs to the same." The manor, or estate, was of small extent, about thirty acres, with a good house called the Grange upon it. At the dissolution, Queen Elizabeth, August 15th, 1565, granted to Roger Langesford and Christopher Martin the lordship and manor of Hannam, called Down-Hanham, &c., belonging lately to the dissolved monastery of Farleigh, and the mansion house, called Le Grange, in Downe-Hanam. The property was afterwards sold to William Neale, from whom it passed into the Weston family, and afterwards to various other persons.

The Weston family resided at Weston Court, which is now a farm-house. It lies between Oldland's Common and North Common, and recently belonged to the representatives of R. Woodward, Esq., of Bath, a grandson of Dr. Richard Woodward, Bishop of Cloyne, son of Francis Woodward, of Grimsbury—now an old farm-house under Cock-Road Hill, and formerly in Kingswood chase.

The Westons were an old family in Oldland and Bitton. They were the owners of Hanham Hall and the manor of Old-

land, and sold the same, in 1652, to Richard Jones. Their name appears in the Subsidy Rolls; and Weston Court was in the possession of Henry Weston, 2nd Henry VIII., as a parcel of the manor of Oldland and Gee Moor, Cock-road. As early as 1238, a Weston was Mayor of Bristol.*

The house called Le Grange, at Downe-Hanam, is now only a plain farm-house. In 1536, 28th Henry VIII., it was in the tenure of John and Elizabeth Parsons: deed dated August 20th, 1533, for a term of sixty years.

DOWNE-HANHAM.

LACOCK ESTATES.

This was another small monastic estate, of about thirty acres, in Downe-Hanam. Its lands abutted on Barr's Court, Oldland. The widow of Nicholas Oxenhaye, Petronella D'Ameneville, gave this estate in "perpetuam elemosynan" to the nuns of Lacock, Wiltshire. The nunnery at Lacock was built by Ela, Countess of Salisbury. Leland says, "there are now the remains of a nunnery, most complete of any in England. Ela was buried there, 1300, in the church of Oseney. She founded a chapel at Rewley, nigh Oxford, where the foundation stone, in 1705, was dug up with the name Ela upon it, and is preserved by Hearn in the Bodleian library."†

The grant to the nuns, as extracted from the Lacock Chartulary, runs thus:—"Petronella filia Roberti de D'Ameneville concessit eisdem monalibus viginti duas acras terrae arabilis de dominiea terrâ sua in manerio de Button, videlicet in Northfelde," § &c. At the dissolution, the property was held by John Taylor and Julia, his wife, and his son William, by a deed for their lives, at 13s. 4d. per annum. The abbess and convent reserving all the timber, underwood and coal-pits. The convent was dedicated to St. Bartholomew.

* Arms: On a plate three fluer-de-lis, a mullet for dif.

† *Vid.* Leland's *Itin.*, p. 94, v. 2.

§ See also Folio 120. Also Bowle's *Lacock*.

THE MANOR OF UPTON.

This manor is sometimes called Upton Chann, and Upton Cheyney. It was held by the lords of Kingswood Forest. In Domesday it is one of the hides belonging to the king and it is called Optune—"In Betune . . . Alterum membrum nomine Optune" * Earl Alwin held it, the same Earl Alwin as held Oldlande.

In the third of Edward II., † John de Button bought land in Upton of Henry le Chaun, by the service of a rose at Christmas during Henry's life. "In the same reign a charter of a free warren was granted to John de Button, in Upton, Button, and Hanam."

In the year 1453, 31st of Henry VI., by a fine the manor of East Hannam and Upton, with divers other lands in Oldland, Upton Chaun, and West Hannam, were settled in trustees for the use of Sir John Barr for life, and after his death to revert to his wife's heirs. By the inquisition after his death, the manor of Upton Chaun was held of Stafford by a bunch of gillyflower. On the death of Lady Barr, 1488, Robert Bassett, one of her heirs, held Highfield, Upton Chaun, under the Earl of Stafford. Giles Bassett succeeded, died 1543, seised of manor of Upton Chaun and Highfield. Next, a son, Robert, held the same premises of Lord Stafford as of his honour of Gloucester. William Basset, of Claverton, built there a mansion, 1609. The property continued in the Basset family till 1650, much dismembered; but the manorial rights passed about this time to Brice Seed, in whose family it continued till, by the marriage of Alice Seed, his daughter, it passed to the Rev. Ed. Parker, the vicar of Bitton. This worthy vicar, it appears, bought the estate in 1701, of Arthur Lacy, Esq., whose family had purchased the manor and mansion as part of the estate of Hanham Abbots. The Lacys lived at Upton, the principal residence there being Upton House, in which they resided. The manor house of Upton Chaun, the tenement which Brice Seed gave to Brice Seed, son of Tobias, called Tucker's, is now a substantially built farm-

* Domesday, F 162^b.

† Fine, 3rd Ed. II.

house: it is built on the site of the old manor house. In a field near is an ancient dove cot, or columbarium, the usual appendage of a manor house.

Another ancient estate was that occupied by John Burnel, at Highfield. In the time of Henry VIII. the Burnels possessed it. In 1619, the estates were conveyed to John Barker, of Bristol, merchant, 1627. Sir Vincent Gookin, Kt., purchased the estate and mansion. It subsequently came into the possession of Archibald Drummond, Esq., M.D., who had the mansion pulled down, and it is now a farm-house.

Besides the Upton estates, the Seeds held lands and a good house lying between Upton and Beach, called the Bartons, part of the manor ceded to Mr. Parker. There appeared to have been a considerable number of houses in this neighbourhood once occupied by gentlefolk, but which now are farm-houses. Early in the seventeenth century a family by name of Whittington, of Ivythorne, in the county of Somerset, was one.* Ivythorne is an old manor house, situated on the south of the Polden Hills, near the Wells road, about three miles from Glastonbury. It is a very ancient house with panelled rooms. There is a columbarium in the garden; and recently were dug up there several stone slabs bearing arms. The present owner has one of these built into the wall over the fire-place, the other over the eastern porch. The Whittingtons, of Ivythorne and Upton, bore for their arms: Az three fishes hauriant.

The question has been raised as to whether the Whittingtons, of Upton and Ivythorne, were in any way related to Sir Richard Whittington, the Lord Mayor's family. There is some reason for the query, although it is doubtful. The Lord Mayor's family resided at Hamswell, in the adjoining parish of Cold Ashton; but some of the family lived in this parish, at Fifteen Acres, a tenement which they bought of the Seeds, a part of their estate, Upton Manor. The Lord Mayor's arms are: Gu., a fess checky or and az. Several of the Whittingtons were buried in Bitton.

Adjoining Upton is the little village of *Swinford*, which, within memory, was called Swineshead—the name which gave the name to the hundred in this part, Swineshead hundred.

* Ellacombe.

THE MANOR OF GEE MOOR.

This manor was owned by the Westons, of Weston Court, who purchased the Down-Hanham estates. It was bounded on the south by Cock-Road, on the north by Newton's lands, on the east by Siston Common. Its western part trended towards Kingswood Hill. The manor was not of large extent, and is sometimes designated Weston's woods, from the fact that it was wholly within the forest and the last bit of wood which then had survived the mutilation and destruction of the forest. Cock-Road, called also "Weston's Way," was notorious for its den of thieves and lawless characters.* The Weston Court, the residence of the Weston family for many years, stood just over the margin of this manor between Oldland's Common and North Common, already described under Down-Hanham; it is now a farm-house, and still called Weston's Court Farm. The Westons were one of the most influential families, and one of the oldest established in the neighbourhood. As early as 1238, one of the family was Mayor of Bristol. In 1511, Henry Weston possessed a part of Oldland manor and Gee Moor.

The road leading from Warmley to Cock-Road Hill is known as "Grimsbury Lane." Here, standing in from the roadway, is an old farm-house, formerly the residence of the Woodward. The Woodward, Richard Woodward and family, of Bath, purchased the Weston estates in 1794.† Samuel Batchellor, Esq., of Bath, afterwards purchased it, whose son the Rev. Ed. Batchellor, sold it in divers lots in June, 1862. The manor is therefore dismembered. On this manor stood the spelter works, once famous in the industrial world, but now only a pottery. An account is given of these works elsewhere.

In 1819, a New turnpike road, leading from Bitton over Oldland and North Common, to the Passages on the Severn, was begun. This road passes the old farm-house, originally Weston's Court, dividing the ancient manor. The road to Bridgiate is a most substantial, level, and pleasant carriage-way. There was also a local Act of Parliament obtained, 59 Geo. III., for inclosing

* See Ancient Villages.

† See monuments to some of this family in Bristol Cathedral.

certain commons, fields, and other waste places, and for stopping up several public highway roads and footways. This Act was put in operation and many waste lands were inclosed. The common lands were West Field, Red Field, Longwell Green, Cadbury Heath (now quite a flourishing village), Oldland and North Common.

The particulars of these, with plans, were all set forth by the Commissioner in the Act, Mr. Young Sturge, and signed by him, 31st March, 1827, and enrolled by the Clerk of the Peace for the county of Gloucester.*

The manor of Gee Moor is sometimes called "Joy Moor," and "Cock-Road." See Ancient Villages.



* "A Copy is deposited in Parish Chest, Bitton."—Rev. — Ellacombe.

CHAPTER XX.

ANCIENT MANORS.

THE MANORS OF SISTON AND PUCKLECHURCH.

SISTON manors are in the hundred of Pucklechurch. The parish constituted a part of the Forest of Kingswood. In Doomsday, "Roger de Berchelai holds Sistone, the same as held Pulrecere hundred. Anni held it. There are five hides taxed. In demesne two plow-tillages and eight villeins, ten bordars with four plow-tillages. Four servi (slaves) and eight acres of meadow." At the time of the conquest, therefore, Siston was nearly all woodland.

Roger de Berkeley, of Dursley, gave this manor in dower to the daughter of Robert Fitzharding, whom his son married; and thus it devolved to Henry Berkeley, of Dursley. Robert Walleraund, who was allied to the Cabberley branch of these Berkeleys, had a free warren, 20 Henry III., having been enfeoffed by Henry Berkeley, of whom he held the manor with a house and garden, leaving Robert Walerond, son of William, his brother, his heir. From Maud, his widow, it passed to an uncle, Robert Wallerand. After his heirs, Alen Plockenet held it of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, by a rose per annum, at the feast of St. John the Baptist. It was then alienated to the Corbetts. From the Corbetts it came to Sir Gilbert Dennis. The last of the Dennises dying seised, it was sold from the family to Henry Billingsley, who resold in 1637 to the Earl of Middlesex. In 1650, Patrick Carey bought it, and the next year sold it to Samuel Trotman. It then came to Fiennes Trotman, a grandson of Susannah Finnes, Lady Filmer, sister of Lawrence, fifth Viscount Say and Sele. The latter gentleman possessed large estates in Oxfordshire, part of the ancient domain of Say and Sele. From the Trotmans it came to the Dickensons—Fines Trotman B. Dickenson, Esq., being the present owner. Miss

Dickenson, also a sister of the above, married the rector of the parish.

A little beyond the church at Siston, the only one left of three churches formerly standing in this village, is the handsome mansion of Siston Court; but like the churches and the village, it seems now to "bid fair for perpetual desolation." For some time, it appears, it has been without an occupant, except a rare old servant—the steward. During the present year (1886) also, I believe, the whole of the ancient pictures and costly furniture have been removed. It seems really a pity, after so many years of historic interest connected with this place, that a house such as this is, beautiful in many respects, adapted for noblemen fond of either art or science; sports, with plenty of game, carriage drives, tall elms, rookeries, &c., should be thus deserted. Yet such it appears to be, although painful to say so. Time was, when the Dickensons and earlier Trotmans lived here, that those who chanced to pass that way, or made but a flying visit to the "Great House," spoke cheerily of the hospitality bestowed, and kindly feelings expressed towards them, remembering the visit often, and many years after speaking of it in glowing terms, as one of the happy episodes of their lives. Now all is changed! Silence reigns almost unbroken; and whether one's visit be in midday or otherwise, there is almost always the same solemn stillness pervading the Court.

This beautiful mansion, according to some writers, is supposed to have been built by one of the Dennis family in the reign of King Charles the First. There is no record or printed account of this that I have seen; and none of the county historians have given us any other particulars respecting it. If it were built in that king's reign, it cannot be so old as some persons suppose it to be. The probability is, however, that it is of much earlier date than that given us by Rudder, who has furnished us with the above supposition in his account of this place.

Among the many particulars descriptive of Siston manor, a house is mentioned in Queen Elizabeth's reign, and described as a "capital messuage" having the usual appurtenances attached, and which were accorded to manor houses in those days. This house is identical with Siston Court and corresponds exactly

with all subsequent accounts of it. From this fact it is most likely that there was a very ancient house here even in Elizabeth's time; and there is no doubt but that subsequently to this, or probably in that queen's reign, the old house was enlarged and improved by one of the Dennises, who then became possessed of it, and who is thought to have built it.

Sir Gilbert Dennis was the first of this family who came into possession of the manor, and who was also an exceedingly rich man. In all probability it was he who enlarged and beautified Siston House. Sir Robert Atkins says of this family, "that there have been more high sheriffs from them than from any other family in this county; that it was a very ancient family of long standing." Henry Dennis also had a "livery" granted him "of the parish of Pucklechurch" in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Formerly, the possessions of the "Lords of Syston" were much larger than in later times; hence both the towns of Syston and Ashton (Syston was then called Syze Town), and also their manors, in the time of Henry I., belonged to Henry of Blois, a Cluniack monk, then a great Abbot of Glastonbury.

That Siston Court has been altered and improved there appears to be plenty of proof. The old paintings and views of it, represent it not as a quadrangular block of buildings, but simply a square substantial house, with gabled front and corner towers, more in accord with primitive manorial houses of that time than the sumptuous palace which is now at Siston. The gables have been taken off, to correspond apparently with the wings or side elevations, and which appear to have been of more recent construction. The house was also beautified, and a new roof put upon it a few years ago. The windows are mullioned with a clean stone, and the carving and oak-work point to the Elizabethan period. Not many years ago the late owner ordered an old workshop which had been used for purposes of carpentering to be cleared out, at the same time removing the obstruction to the light, when it was discovered that the old shop was one of the most handsome parts of the building, and which probably had been used for a chapel. The mantel-piece was beautifully carved, and the work generally throughout the room was of superior workmanship.

Of the beauty of Siston Court, when in proper trim, few persons in the neighbourhood of Bristol have but the faintest idea. They mostly know that it is a large house, and old, and that is all. But the style of the rooms, its massive and antique furniture, dark and heavy oak fittings, rich tapestry and splendid portraits—recently, with their heavy gilt frames, restored; mirrored rooms, damask and silk trimmings, costly and large library, make a very different impression when once visited.

Indeed, when it is thus, everything is here that is necessary to impress the mind with that kind of association so agreeable to those who are fond of art, comfort, pleasure, scenery, beauty, and also luxury; sought after by those whose fortune it is to be possessed of great wealth.

But there are other places of much interest, if not, indeed, of equal interest with Siston Court, in this manor. Several old farms, called Lodges, with "Mound's Court," now called Mount's Court, being of equal antiquity, if not, indeed, older structures, than that of Siston Court. Queen Catherine Parr is said to have visited here, and kept her court here for seven or eight weeks. One family—the Stranges—are known to have possessed this house for more than 300 years. This can be shown by the monuments in the village churches. The "Blue Lodge" farm is also another very ancient house in this manor, and possibly was one of the old lodges—of which there were several—that stood in the forest here, the whole of Siston parish formerly being within the boundary of Kingswood Forest. Siston Farm and Peterson's Farm are equally old. There are also many other places of interest in the neighbourhood.

THE MANOR OF PUCKLECHURCH.

The parish of Pucklechurch is about three miles in length and two in breadth. The brook Filtham divides it from the parish of Dyrham.

Pucklechurch was anciently written, Pulcrecerce, and signifies, according to Rudder, a beautiful and stately church. Camden calls it the "Villa Regia," or Royal Town, because some time the

royal household of England resided there. Whatever may have given rise to the designation "beautiful" in respect to Pucklechurch I cannot say, but it appears not to have been inaptly applied. No other village near has the pre-eminence, or, indeed, can be equal to it, I think, in regard to its situation for health. In a little hollow, on an elevated plateau of rich land, where the softest summer breeze may be felt, and where also the greater winds furiously blow, but are nevertheless broken and their fury spent ere they reach the village—quietly, and sequestered from natural and almost all storms of political commotion and strife, and also screened from observation—for the space of a thousand years or more, this beautiful village has "held on its way" with very little alteration apparently during the whole of that time—

A blessed spot, where

Cheerful guests retire

To pause from toil, and trim their evening fire ;

Where blessed feasts, with simple plenty crown'd,

With all the ruddy family around,

Who laugh at jests, or pranks that never fail,

Or sigh with pity at some mournful tale.

Some particulars have already been mentioned of Pucklechurch, and also of the Saxon King, Edmund, who was murdered there. A spot is still pointed out by the villagers as the site of the ancient palace of that king. It is situated behind a public-house called the Star Inn. Here, a few years ago, an old house was pulled down, which had been for many years in the occupation of a Mrs. Chambers. It was this house—very curious and "odd-looking"—that was said to have been the palace in which King Edmund was slain. Possibly it may have been a part of it; the only visible remains of which, now, are some cattle sheds, built with the old stones. Edmund, whose history has been given in almost every school book, has been chiefly distinguished for his acts of bravery; his principal characteristic, however, was his marked benevolence. It was owing to his munificence and kindness that the great Abbot of Glastonbury, Dunstan, to whom I have previously referred, rose to such a position of potency and influence in England. When Edmund ascended the throne he summoned Dunstan to attend him at his court, where the king,

having just escaped a terrible death, which he believed sequential to his own injustice to Dunstan, rewarded him in gratitude by making him Abbot of Glastonbury. [See *Ante.*]

Through this incident, the king is said to have placed Dunstan in the above abbey, as chief abbot, "by Divine inspiration." Edmund's gratitude, also, being so great on finding that he had escaped from such a terrible death, gave to that monastery 308 and a half hides of land—amounting to nearly 6,000 acres of land.

King Edmund, coming to such an untimely end at this place, was buried at Glastonbury. Wherefore the manor of Pucklechurch was afterwards bestowed on that house to say masses for the repose of the king's soul. Hence, in the book of the general survey—Doomsday, we find it thus recorded: "St. Mary, of Glastonberi, holds Pulcrecerce in Pulcercerce Hundred. There are twenty hides. In demesne six plow-tillages, twenty-three villeins, and eight bordars, with eighteen plow-tillages. There are ten servi and six men pay *ninety barrs of iron*, and in Glocester is one burgage paying five pence, and two free-men (coliberti) paying thirty-four pence, and there are three foreigners (fracig) and two Mills of one hundred pence each [rent]. There are sixty acres of meadow, and a wood half a mile long and half a mile broad. It was worth twenty pounds (£20) and is now worth thirty pounds (£30)." *

The manor then included Westerleigh, Abson, and Wick. The whole place, for those times, was in a most prosperous condition. The "ninety barrs of iron required" show also that the neighbourhood of Wick must have had smelting furnaces of some kind, as there is no other part of the neighbourhood that yields iron ore or rock containing that mineral.

The monks of Glastonbury quitted their right to this large manor, and to the advowson of the church, to Joceline, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, on condition that he would restore to them the election of their own abbot. A good part of this parish, when it was so extensive, probably the hamlet of Wick, was within the Forest of Kingswood. The Bishop of Bath, also,

* Doomsday, p. 71.

procured it to be disafforested in the 12th Hen. III. The bishop also purchased a charter of free warren in Pucklechurch, 41st Hen. III.*

The hundred and manor of Pucklechurch remained annexed to the See of Bath and Wells till King Edward the Sixth's reign. In the second year of his reign he took them, with the manor of Westerleigh and others, by exchange, and granted the management of the former to Sir Nicholas Pointz; but as they produced no profit, the king's commissioners recommended the letting of them at a small rent.

Afterwards they were, by letters patent, granted to William, Earl of Pembroke, and his heirs to hold *in capite* with the exception of Pucklechurch Park.† Maurice Dennis held them next; then the Codringtons, who sold them to another branch of the Dennises. William Hallidai is the next owner, and by his daughter's marriage they pass to Ed. Hungerford, of Corsham, Wilts. Subsequently, Robert Sutton and John Manners, Duke of Rutland, possessed them.

The influential family of Dennises, most of whom lie buried at Pucklechurch, deserve some notice here. The Pucklechurch branch, from which all in the neighbourhood sprang, were descendants of Sir Walter Dennys, of Dyrham. He was at Bosworth field, and fought for Richard.‖ He married Agnes, daughter of Sir Robert Danvers, for his second wife.

Sir Walter Dennys had six children—three sons and three daughters. The eldest son, Sir William Dennys, founded a guild at Dyrham, 1520; also he enclosed a park, 1512. He married Lady Anne, daughter of William Berkeley. John Dennys, a brother, lived at Pucklechurch; he married a daughter of Thomas Norton, of Bristol; she was a widow. This John Dennys seems to be the first of the name established at Pucklechurch. Their only son, Hugh, died at the village, 1599; his wife also, daughter of Edward Trye, of Hardwick, died at Pucklechurch, 1583. John Dennys, their third child, possessed the estates. He is the author of a book, "The Secrets of Angling." He died 1609, and

* Rudder's His. Glo.

† At the same time he bought the manor of Barton Regis.

‖ Inq. P. M. 21st Hen. VII.

was buried at Pucklechurch. The next descendant was Henry, who married Margaret, daughter of George Speke, of White Lackington, Somerset. Died 1638. Wife died 1622; buried at Pucklechurch. They left four children, who were, John Dennis, Henry, William, and Cecily. John Dennis purchased Bitton manor, 1660. He died the same year, and was buried at Pucklechurch. With the next heir the Dennises become extinct.

William Dennis, Esq., the youngest son of John, and only surviving son, owner of Bitton and Pucklechurch estates, died 1701, aged 55. He married Dorothy, daughter of John Cotton, of Connington, in county of Huntingdon. She was a near relative, "*nurus et mater*,"* and left two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary. Mary married Colonel James Butler, of Kilvington, page of honour to Charles II. She died without issue, 1739, and was buried at Pucklechurch. Elizabeth Dennis married Sir Alexander Cumming, of Coulter; buried at Coulter, in Aberdeenshire, 1738. The last Baronet died *s. q.* Thus the family became extinct. Arms: Gu. a bend engrailed az. between two leopards' heads jessant de lis or.†

Formerly there were large quarries in Pucklechurch for a coarse kind of black marble, used largely for chimney pieces and tomb stones. The property passed to different owners. In the year 1779, Edward Bouverie, of Longford Castle, Wilts, is owner. Arms: Quarterly, first and fourth party per fess, or and argent, an eagle displayed with two heads sable, second and third gules a bend vair. John Barr died seized of lands in Pucklechurch, 22 Eliz., 1580.

The primitive roads, or those anciently the principal thoroughfares of this place, are now disused and form the green lanes of the village. Near to these are several very ancient houses falling into decay. Some are used as farm-houses. They must have been substantially built, and are all of antiquarian interest. One of the old Roman highways is supposed to have been through Pucklechurch. Passing from Bath (*Aqua Solis*) via Wick (*Vicus*), where numerous relics and coins have been found; "it then

* Ellacombe.

† Bristol Vol. Arch. Inst., 1851.

proceeded through Pucklechurch to Bury Hill on to the Froom, where the road was to Almondsbury, and to Aust, or Oldbury, and over the Severn to Lydney, where is a great Roman camp.*

Beyond Pucklechurch lies

DYRHAM,

another old village of equal antiquity with Pucklechurch. This village records its early origin in its name "Dwr," being an old British word for water, and "ham," a village. A bloody battle was fought here, between the British and Scotch, in the year 577, under Cuthwin and Ceawlin. There is a large camp, enclosing about twenty acres of land, on Hinton Hill, which the Saxons are said to have occupied. From this place, also, King Edmund took his wife and queen, Aefleda, daughter of Elgar, the ealdorman.



* Camden.

CHAPTER XXI.

ANCIENT MANORS.

MANGOTSFIELD MANOR.

MANGOTSFIELD lies in the Barton Regis hundred, and is called in Domesday, Manegodesfelle. It probably derives its name from its situation on a stony hill in Kingswood Forest. There is a tradition about the name which I have given in the account of Ancient Villages. I think, however, that Rudder is right in his explanation of the three combined words which make up the name: *Mane*, British for stone; *goed*, wood; *felle*, hill; a stony place on the hill in the wood,—which agrees with its situation. Mangotsfield is within the jurisdiction of the court of the honour of Gloucester, now held at Thornbury.

There were two manors in Mangotsfield. In the year 1231, 15th of Hen. III., William de Putot died seized of it. He had a special grant of a free chantry in the chapel he built. He built a chapel in his manor house at Mangotsfield. He married Petronella, of Bitton. He was sheriff of Gloucestershire from 1222 to 1228. He was also Warden of the Stannaries in Cornwall, and of the "coast of the sea of Bristol." His daughter, Petronella, same name as her mother, married David le Blund, subsequently spelt Blount. The Blounts lived at Filton, and their "estates lay there." Putot's manor, therefore, came to the le Blunds or Blounts. Half the manor of Bitton also came to the Blount family. "David le Blund died July, 1323, seised of half the manor of Bitton." Several heirs then succeed each other, when we find Edmund Blount marries Margaret, a daughter of Sir John Seymour. Their arms, impaled, were on the old church porch at Mangotsfield. The Blounts built the manor house on Rodway Hill. Smith, in his *Lives of the Berkleys*, says, "Bitton and Mangotsfield had for centuries one manor house in common,

till the Blounts built one at Mangotsfield." * After Edmund de Blunt died, 1327, the Blounts resided either at Filton or Mangotsfield. Bitton Court was afterwards called *Dennisses*.

The son of Edmund Blount, by Margaret Seymour, afterwards styled Sir Simon Blount, was born at Mangotsfield, October, 1472. Sir Edmund Blount left an only daughter, two years old, 1477, when he died. This daughter, Margaret, married Lord John Hussey, of Sleaford. He was beheaded at Lincoln, 1538. Sir William, son of Lord John, aliened the manors of Mangotsfield and Bitton to Robert Dormer. From the latter the Berkleys bought them and held them till 1633, when the manor was dismembered and the estate sold to several persons. The arms of Blount were: Azure, two bars argent, over all an escarbuncle of eight rays or, pomettée and florettée gules.

William Player purchased a part of the manor at Mangotsfield. He was one of the claimants of liberty in the Chase of Kingswood. His property passed to the Bathursts, of Lidney Park. His descendants had a splendid seat on Cleave Hill.

Leland writes of an "ancient nunnery," ruins of which were "standing here in his day." But now all traces of these have disappeared. A little way from the village is Bury Hill, with a deep foss and high agger, thrown up, it is supposed, by the Roman general, Ostorius.

Rudgway was also a distinct manor, partly in Mangotsfield parish and Stapleton parish. It was within the manor Bertune, 13th Hen. IV. The church is dedicated to St. James. It was originally a chapel of ease to St. Peter's Church, Bristol, and belonged to St. James' monastery there. The rectory and advowson were granted, 35th Hen. VIII., to John Braine.



* MS. Copy in Herald's College.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE ANCIENT VILLAGES.

KING'S BARTON AND ST. GEORGE'S.

IN giving some account of the villages and other places of interest anciently situated near to Kingswood Forest, and which are frequently noticed in the early accounts of Bristol and its suburbs, the

KING'S BARTON

seems to claim the first attention. This was, as its name implies, the king's "farm"—a farm kept for the purposes of providing subsistency and otherwise sustaining the many inhabitants of the castle, troops, &c., of Bristol. After the conquest, the castle became a royal demesne, and demesne lands in "Bertune" were reserved for the above purposes. The whole extent of barton was at that time six "hydes," or about 960 acres—a "hyde" being, according to Glaston, 160 acres. Glaston gives the following as the land measures then in use, viz: "A fardel, equal to 10 acres; a virgate, equal to four fardels, or 40 acres; a hyde, equal to four virgates, or 160 acres; a fee, equal to four hydes, or 640 acres." Hence Bertune was equal to 96 of the smaller divisions, 24 of virgates, or six hydes, equal to a fee and one-half. This land would be about the area, perhaps a little more, than the square mile—lying between the entrance to the forest at Dongeon's Cross and the castle at Bristol; or what was anciently the parish of St. Philip and St. Jacob Without. The people here would be dependent on the castle and trading at the castle market, held where the Old Market Street now stands. That there resided here the foresters and others connected with the forest is proved by what we have shown in the forest history. The Barton included Stapleton, and here also resided some of the foresters.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, one Thomas Pytley was one of the keepers of the forest, and was buried in the church of St. Philip in the parish. There was inscribed on a verge of a monumental ledger stone as follows:—"Here lieth the Body of Thomas Pytley. Symtims keeper of the Queen's Forest." In the centre of the stone is a representation of a cross-bow and a dog. He died A.D., 1596.

The church of St. Philip and Jacob was first a chapel to a religious house or priory of the order of St. Benedict. It was the oldest church near Bristol. The exact date when it became parochial is not known. It is mentioned in Gaunt's deeds before the year 1200, and became a parish church through the accession of inhabitants at this place. The living was purchased by Henry Braine, Esq., from Henry VIII., and afterwards sold to the commonality of Bristol by Sir Charles Somerset and G. Winter, who had married the co-heiresses of Henry Braine. The church was useful to the many poor of the neighbourhood, and in very early times the bishops took care they should not be neglected. Richard, Bishop of Worcester, ordained that Hugh Hope, the first vicar, should have a manse built for him at the expense of the Abbot and convent . . . the priory of St. James' to pay him twelve marks of silver yearly: to have the cure of souls, and, as by statute of the 4th of Richard II. . . . the diocesan orders a convenient sum of silver to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish out of the profits of the church.

In 1279, 12th September, process was issued out of the office of the Bishop of Worcester against Peter de la Mare, constable of Bristol Castle, and others his accomplices, for infringing the privileges of the church in taking out William de Lay, who had fled for refuge to the churchyard of St. Philip and Jacob, for carrying him into the castle and imprisoning him, and, lastly, cutting off his head. Nine or ten being involved in this crime, their sentence was to go from the church of the Friars Minor, in Lewin's Mead, to the Church of St. Philip and Jacob, through the streets, naked, except their breeches, and in their shirts, for four market days, for four weeks, each receiving discipline all the way; and Peter de la Mare was enjoined to build a stone cross, at the expense of 100s. at least,—that one hundred poor be

fed round it on a certain day every year; and that he should find a priest to celebrate mass during his life where the bishop shall appoint. "The stone cross is mentioned by William of Worcester:—*Altæ crucis prope fossam castri Bristoll.*"

The division of the parish 1751, and the erection of another parish church excited a good deal of interest at the time. It was, however successfully carried out, the particulars of which will lead me to say something about the village of

ST. GEORGE'S.

This name took its rise with the "new church" and new parish created out of St. Philip and Jacob, as noticed above. "Thomas Chester, Esq., lord of the manor, gave a piece of ground in Kingswood, the site of the church dedicated to St. George, churchyard, parsonage house, and a field near it. Dr. Butler, Bishop of Bristol, gave £400 towards the maintenance of the new vicar, besides which he obtained £400 more from the Governors of Queen Ann's Bounty. The Corporation of Bristol gave £250 provided they should have the presentation of the living. The Merchants' Society gave £150, and Mr. Tyndall £100. The foundation stone was laid by David Peloquin, Esq., mayor, March 3rd, 1752. The church and vicarage house when completed cost £2,853 17s. 7½d." The writer of the above goes on to say that this place, Kingswood, "being once a wild forest of deer, is now become a well-inhabited place with several thousand inhabitants, who are civil and industrious people living happily together in their neat cottages."*

This was just fourteen years after the "great revival" in Kingswood, caused by Whitfield's preaching. To this I shall have occasion to refer again. But Kingswood was not yet a neighbourhood of lambs, and the neat houses of St. George sheltered many a ruffian. Indeed, during the building of St. George's church, May, 1753, a great mob of colliers, rustics, and weavers assembled at Lawford's Gate in a riot. The constables, city guards, and others, met them and opposed them, when a skirmish took place and several were wounded; many were also taken prisoners, but admitted to bail. A day or two after they

* Barrett's Bristol.

assembled again and carried off several tradesmen to Kingswood for the purpose of robbery and retaliation. The authorities of Bristol ordered the mob to be fired upon; four persons were thus killed and many wounded.*

Joseph Butler, to whom St. George's Church owes its origin, was made Bishop of Bristol in the same year as Whitfield commenced his labours in Kingswood, in 1738. He was trained in a high-class school at Tewkesbury—a school famed for such men as Nath. Lardner, Dr. Maddox, Bishop of Worcester, Samuel Chandler, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Butler's intimate friend, who, in an age of such subtle and sceptical deistical delusions, appeared to be raised up for the special purpose of giving to the world such an excellent range of works on theology as cannot be surpassed.

Dr. Samuel Clark's works and Dr. Bentley's also date from this time. But of all the hosts of volumes then issued, there is none like the "Analogy" by Butler, the main argument of which has never yet been answered. There is reason to suspect that the advance in religion among educated people at that time was largely due to his book. It would be a fitting tribute, I think, to the memory of this good man, if some patron, touched with Butler's sympathy, should find in his heart love enough to have engraved upon a small tablet Butler's memorable syllogism, and obtain its erection in some fitting place in this handsome church; namely this sentence:—"That he who believes the Scriptures to have proceeded from Him who is the Author of nature, may well expect to find the same *sort* of difficulties in it as are found in the constitution of nature."

The old building was pulled down in 1845, and enlarged and re-opened in 1846; that church was burnt down December 22nd, 1878, and a most handsome building, with an improved tower, spire, and six bells, has been erected. Mr. Bruton made and presented the lectern, and the inhabitants took a great interest in the rebuilding of the church.

In 1822, Samuel Barret, a native of this parish, was pursued over a hundred miles for horse stealing. He was caught, brought

* Gent.'s Mag., 1753.

back to Gloucester, hanged on the 22nd September, and buried at St. George's the following week. An immense crowd gathered at his funeral; the kindly old sexton, recently deceased, Aaron Flook, had charge of the ceremonies.

The church of St. George's was built just within the boundary of Kingswood Forest, near to the Bath Road, where anciently the old high road entered the forest, cutting it in two. Near to this point it is recorded that a "penitential cross" formerly stood, of which the following is a description, viz. :—

DON JOHN'S CROSS.

"In St. George's parish was a ruined chapel of St. Anthony's, and in the highway near the church stood a penitential cross, which, from Dom. Johan (Domini Johannis, the name of the benefactor, perhaps), has obtained the name of Don John's Cross. It is supposed to be the place where the body of some noble Spaniard rested while being conveyed on its way to Spain." The ruins of St. Anthony's Chapel are about half a mile below this on the road to Pile Marsh. There is no evidence to confirm this story, excepting the fact that a cross stood there from time immemorial. The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, late of Bitton, accounts for it in this way :—"It is," he says, "noticeable that the castle (of Bristol) was called the 'dungeon,' and in the depositions" (pertaining to the separation of the castle from the chase, 5th Chas. I.) "the witnesses speak of it as the Dungeon's Cross; if so, the old tradition of Domini Johannis falls to the ground." It was doubtless erected in very early times as a place of rendezvous, or as a mark to the principal pass into the forest. Moreover, its ancient name does not savour of Spanish origin at all—"Dungell" being, in all senses etymologically considered, Saxon. The neighbourhood here has considerably improved of late years. A number of small, but prettily detached and semi-detached, villas having been built and now adorn the roads. Many old cottages have been destroyed, and several good schools and Dissenting places of worship have arisen. Formerly there was a very large and celebrated grammar school in this place, called Pocock's School, which gave its pupils a high standing in classic education. An old inn attached, called the "Cherry Orchard," was widely

known and celebrated for its "home brewed," and a little beyond is an inn with a curious sign—"The World's End." This has been re-built as a fashionable hotel. I notice also that within the last few years some benefactor has, at his own cost, erected a very useful and neat drinking fountain on the very spot where stood "ye olde Dungill Crosse."



CHAPTER XXIII.

ANCIENT VILLAGES.

HANHAM.

PASSING along what is known as the old Roman road, *Via Julia*, or the Bath road, we enter the

OLD VILLAGE OF HANHAM.

Hanham took its name from an early British Family of that name,—one Ap Hanham being possessed of this estate in very early times. There were several noblemen who possessed mansions in this place, of whom there are some elegant monuments in Bristol Cathedral. The earliest possessor of Hanham, of which we have any reliable record, was Ernulf de Hesding, who came into England with the Conqueror. The principal estates with their ancient houses were Hanham Abbots, with its manor house, called

HANHAM COURT.

This is the first important mansion in the neighbourhood. It was the family home for more than two hundred years of the Creswicks, where King James was entertained by them. The walls of the house, especially the basements, are very massive and ancient. There is a little early chapel or church adjoining the mansion, which is very interesting and which served for the worshippers of the hamlet and the people of the "big house." This little church, amongst other things, contains a Norman font and a more curious Norman piscina. The property belongs to the family of the late Samuel Whittuck, Esq., lord of the manor. There is another excellent house, called

THE GRANGE.

In 1553, this manor was granted to Rowland Hayward. Afterwards the Bassetts possessed it, Henry Creswicke succeeding in 1638.

In 1764, the Bristol Brass Battery and Copper Company bought it. James Emerson, of Hanham, also purchased it afterwards, in 1794, and sold it to Samuel Whittuck, Esq., who had the old Elizabethan Grange house pulled down and a new house built on the site, 1840. This is still a good house and occupied. Anciently this property belonged to the Abbey of Keynsham, and took its name from that fact. Handcliffe Wood also belonged to the same. The Abbey of Keynsham and all its properties belonged to the Priory of Farley, in Wiltshire, and was founded by Humphrey de Bohun in the year 1125.* The monks were of the Cluniack order, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and were subordinate to the Abbey of Sussex.

There is another good house in this hamlet, built by Mr. Richard Jones, 1655, called Hanham Hall. This mansion was purchased by Mr. James Emerson, where he lived. Mr. Emerson was for a long time the manager of the Tower Works, and one of the first who manufactured zinc from calamine. He had some works at Hanham. Near to the River Avon are the Hanham Mills, so called from there having been considerable grist mills there formerly. The origin of this name was as follows, viz.:—In 1690 the city of Bristol was badly supplied with water; some gentlemen interested in the matter obtained an Act of Parliament for powers of forming a company to supply this defect, the shares in which were £65 each. It was decided to bring the water from Hanham, near the river, in wooden pipes—hollow elm trees—to a large reservoir about a mile from Lawford's Gate, a large "wheel engine" being erected on the banks of the Avon to lift the water into the pipes. The plan was successfully accomplished, the houses being supplied with water at a cost of "40s. a year." After a time, however, it did not pay; various parts of the works were sold, the "wheel engine" and the house at Hanham were turned into a corn mill, the tank filled up, and the old pipes were left to rot away in the earth. Thus collapsed the first Bristol Water Works Company, and thus has left a name.

Hanham, like all the villages on the margin of the old forest, has been steadily improving during the last twenty years.

* Monst. Angl., 620.

Everywhere there are signs of prosperity. The first movement seems to have begun with the religious denominations. The little Norman church attached to Hanham Court was first restored. In 1842, a new church on Jeffries' Hill was opened, with parsonage house and school. By an order in Council, March 4th, 1844, the parish was divided, and the new church became the parish church, and the ancient chapel of Hanham Abbots a chapel of ease to it. The Dissenters have built several places of worship also in the neighbourhood. And we must not forget that the Baptists were the first of these in the neighbourhood. They began their work here during Charles II.'s reign, and the persecutions they suffered were something dreadful.*

The parish of Hanham contains 1,195 acres. Formerly there were a large number of open spaces in the district, but are all now enclosed. It was in Hanham Abbots, in Sydenham meadow, that the Duke of Monmouth and his rebel army encamped on the 25th June, 1685.† The army consisted of 1000 horse and 10,000 foot, with field-pieces, &c. Francis Creswicke, the lord of the manor, was accused of being in league with the rebels, but there being no evidence against him after lying so long in prison the "Attorney-General directed Astey to enter a *Noli-prosequi*," and he was liberated.

The trouble through which this poor gentleman passed and endured, together with that of all the family afterwards, has been set down to the fact that he possessed an estate which previously was monastic property—belonging to Keynsham Abbey. This is not a place to argue the subject; but let it be known that this is a prophecy to those in the neighbourhood who still hold these lands. I shall ask my readers to dismiss the thought as a stale ecclesiastical and priestly fiction not to be endured for a moment. Buying church property honestly does not entail the "infelicity of sacrilege."

The following prisoners were at Gloucester, from Hanham, accused for assisting the rebels with the Duke of Monmouth:—

John Stone, to be hanged, drawn, and quartered.

Elizabeth Lambart, to be hanged, after reprieved.

* See under places of worship.

† 21st of August, O.S.

San'll Asplin, to be transported.

Christopher Tilly, to remain as before.

William Randle, ye like.

Robert Peere, to find baile for ye appearance next.

Ths. Stephens, " " "

Hanna Gale, " " "

Peter Rivers, to find baile for his appearance next sessions, acquitted.

Phillip Cambridge, to be sent into Somersetshire to be tried for hygh treason.

Francis Creswicke, accused of hygh treason, to remain in gaole.

Geo. Sanders, " " " "

Ths. Skyn, to find baile, &c., to appear next.

"The above is copy of kalender, affidavit D. of Beaufort's Mittimus, and Sir W. Atkyn's Mittimus." *

In proceeding along our course in the Bath road we come into the hamlets of

LONGWELL GREEN AND WILLSBRIDGE.

In these ancient hamlets we may linger for many hours and find instructive lessons from the past. Let us find out the old mill-clack brook, and here we shall discover the site of the Old manor house of Oldland. Here resided the Pearsall family; Mr. John Pearsall having built a good house in 1730, and constructed mills for rolling and splitting hoop-iron. The old manor house stood by the side of the mill-clack brook, with its large gable and dormer windows. It was remarkable for its rich carving, elaborate ceilings and wainscotting. Mr. Pearsall made a dam across the brook to form a pond and mill-head for his iron works, flooding the meadow and orchard called Swan's Flat. Hanham Hall is now the reputed manor house of Oldland, but that is of too late a date, built in 1655, by R. Jones, as described in the account of manors. "The Old house stood where Mr. Pearsall lived, and was the traditional manor house of Oldland when he built his house at the place, and its style carried that impression." This family also built another house at a place called Goldwell, where, formerly, was an entrance into the forest.

* 5th Rep. of His. MSS. Commissioners, 1876, p. 327.

The mill-clack mills were discontinued in 1815, and the various members of the family left the parish. Mr. Robert Lucas Pearsall was the last who left the neighbourhood. He resided at the upper house, then retired to Germany, after having sold his estate to Robert Stratton, Esq. This Mr. Pearsall was celebrated for his musical ability. He was born at Clifton, but the family and ancestors resided at Willsbridge for many years prior to his birth. No man in modern times did so much to revive the old madrigalian style of harmony, as did Mr. Robert Lucas Pearsall.

Willsbridge, it appears, many years ago, was noted for its madrigalian song. Some old men, octogenarians, speak of a time when companies of singers used to sit out upon elevated spots on moonlight nights and sing short and pithy love songs, answering each other in chorus. One old native related how he remembered his father telling him of a house in Willsbridge that had a sort of tower, whereon at night in the summer time the best men singers used to meet and sing; "and," added the old man, "my father used to say that Englishmen had forgotten the way to sing now-a-days (that would be about 1800), and as for a man with a high voice you could not find him" ("you cuden vind un"). Surely this was madrigalian singing, and answers to its peculiar style.

Mr. R. L. Pearsall studied for the law, and was called to the bar by the Society of Lincoln's Inn, in 1821, but did not follow the profession long. He early gave himself to the study of music and the practice of musical composition, but chiefly in the manner of the old madrigal writers. He was one of the earliest members of the Bristol Madrigal Society, for whose use most of his original pieces were written. Mr. Pearsall removed to Germany in 1842, and at last settled at Wartensee, in Switzerland, on the Lake Constance, where he died after a lingering illness, 1856. While in Germany he contributed several papers to archæologia. Among these is an interesting description of Bishop Hallam's tombstone, who was one of the English Mission to the Council of Constance, and who died there A.D. 1416. He was Prebend of Bitton. It is told of Mr. Pearsall that while composing he was wont to sit at the piano with a pet kitten nestling in his breast, and buttoned up in his dressing-gown.

It was the writer's pleasure to listen to the excellent rendering of some of Pearsall's madrigals, in 1882, at the Ladies' Night, in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, and with the exception of one defect the music could not have been done better.* I have heard the singing several successive years since, but I have not heard it equal to that occasion. The description of the storm in Sir Patric Spens—as the music culminated to the verse below, its effect was very visible and peculiar among the audience:—

The ladies wrang their fingers white,
The maidens tore their hair,
All for the sake of their true loves,
For them they'll see no more.

One of the sweetest compositions of Pearsall's was written shortly after he left England, at Carlsruhe. With this dainty ditty I bid him adieu.

SONG FOR CHRISTMAS.

Come, let us be merry and make good cheer,
Christmas comes but once a year
For a gay ladie!
Rich and costly be her clothes,
Satin kirtle, silken hose;
Deckt with jewels brought from far,
She shall shine like any star.
Come, let us be merry, &c.

See, the Yule log blazes high,
Sends us light that we may spy
Out a gay ladie.
Let no traitor here be seen;
She shall be our winter queen!
We will her true subjects be,
And we'll drink her health in loyaltie,
So let us be merry, &c.

* I have been a teacher of music for thirty years and assume some knowledge of it.

What tho' frost and snow unite
Out of doors to pinch and bite
 Ev'ry gay ladie !
Let them play their envious parts,
She'll find warmth in all our hearts ;
There in spite of both she'll reign
Till they wend them northward home again.
 Come, let us be merry, &c.

As we sing our melodie,
Let our cups high crownèd be
 For a gay ladie !
There let Cupid dip his dart—
Ah, fair ladies, do not start !
Wine, that makes a coward grow bold,
May well hinder love from catching cold.
 Then, let us be merry, &c.

The above was first performed at the Ladies' Night of
January, 1859.



CHAPTER XXIV.

BARR'S COURT.

WE pass a little to the north of these hamlets, and proceeding in that direction, up a lane, we come to an old farmhouse, the site of ancient

BARR'S COURT,

one of the earliest, if not the first mansion built on the margin of Kingswood Forest. Tradition tells us that this was once the residence of the Gournays; Robert de Gourney, one of the family, being fined for hunting in the Kingswood Forest in the time of Henry III. This may be true, but it is more likely the tradition arose from the fact that the residents here intermarried with the Gournays in latter times. This family had great possessions in Gloucestershire and Somersetshire. Hugh de Gourney, the father, came into England with the Conqueror, and took his name from his castle and seignory in Normandy. The value of his whole estates in England was equal to twenty-two knights' fees and a half. From him the following places in Somersetshire received their names, viz., Harptree Gourney, Harrington Gourney, Gourney Slade, Gourney Were, or Nether Were, also Barrow Gourney, where he founded a place for nuns. The Gournays were lords of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, in the above county, now the property of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, where are carried on extensive glove works, the manufactories of the esteemed Southcomb family.

There is a fine old ruin of a monastery now standing at Stoke, part of which has been restored as a dwelling-house, now in the occupation of a farmer. Persons who would wish to get a notion of what monastic life was in "ye olden times" would do well to visit this place. As the whole property of the Gournays' family

finally came to the Newtons, of Barr's Court, at Hanham, the following account of their ancestors' "resting place" may not be deemed uninteresting, viz. :—"There lieth buried yn a collegiate chapple by the ruyns of his castle at Stoke Hameden—Gourney who was lord of it—hee was chefe founder of the priorie of nunes call'd Barrow Gourney, and of the house of Gauntz of Bristow. He was Lorde of Whitcombe and Richemonte Castle, by Mendepe, three miles from Wells—it is now clene down—it came after to Hampton, then to Cradock *alias* Newton. Gourney had the fourthe part of the Lordship of Mendype."

Leland, the writer of the above, also says :—"I sawe at Stoke, in a bottom hard by the village, very notable ruines of a great manor place or castle and yn this remayneth a very ancient castle whereyn be divers tumbes of nobil men and wimen. In the south-west side of the chapelle be five images on tumbs, on hard joyned to another; three of menne harneshid and shilded, and two of wimen; ther hath been inscriptions on eche of them, but now so sore defaced that they cannot bee redde. There is in the north side of the body of the chapelle two tumbes without images, and a tumb in a walle without writing. A tumb with a goodly image of a man in armes in the syde of the quiere of the chapelle with a shield, as I remembre at Verrey, and even afore the quier dore, but without it lyith a very grete flatte marble slab stone, with an image in brasse flattly graven, and this wryting yn French upon it." The writing in French begins by saying, "Here lieth the noble and valiant Mahew de Gourney," &c., and then goes on to state the number of battles, &c., in which he took part.

As observed, the estates of the Gournays afterwards fell to the Hamptons and then to Cradocks, the Newtons being later branches of the same, *i.e.*, of the Cradocks' family, who adopted and substituted the name of Newton (a name of some of their possessions in Wales) for that of the old British name of Cradock, anciently written Caradock. In the Bristol Cathedral is a monument to the first of the Newtons or Cradocks, which "is against the east wall"; and which, during the civil wars, was so mutilated as to be without ornament or name.

This monument was repaired and beautified in the year 1748,

at the expense of Mrs. Archer, of London, and the following is the inscription now upon it:—"In memory of Sir Richard Newton-Cradock, of Barr's Court, in the county of Gloucester, one of his Majestie's Justices of the Common Pleas, who died December 13th, 1444, and with his lady lies interr'd beneath this monument, which was defaced by the civil wars and repaired by Mrs. Archer, sister to the late Sir Michael Newton, of Barr's Court, 1748. His arms—Argent, on a chevron azure, three garbes or." Archæologists are not agreed respecting the date of this tomb, some supposing that Mrs. Archer was misinformed when she repaired the mutilated monument. The arms painted on the tomb are now quite defaced, otherwise the monument is in a good state of preservation.

We find that this house, Barr's Court, was the residence of a lady whose maiden name was Jane Rouge, or Rigge, the last heiress of the Bitton family by her mother, Catherine. It is thought, therefore, that this house was one of the residences of the Bittons, or Buttons as they were then called.

Jane Rouge, or Rigge, married for her second husband, Sir John Barr, of Rotherwas, co. Hereford. There is reason to believe that Sir John beautified the old house and called it after his own name, Barr's Court. It must have been in those days a splendid mansion. When Leland made his Itinerary,* about the year 1540, Barr's Court, at Hanham, was the residence of Sir John Newton. He describes it then as "a fayre old manner place of stone. At this Hanham dwellyeth one Sir John Newton. The forest of Kyngeswodd commyth just onto Barre's Court, Master Newton's house." The site is still marked by a mote, and over the door of the present farm-house remain the Newton arms, beautifully wrought in stone, though much mutilated.† Aged persons say that it was enclosed with a high wall, some of which still remains, extending round what was the original park. There were niches all round the outside of the house filled with colossal leaden statues, a large and lofty entrance hall, richly carved and gilt, particularly the fireplace, the shelf of which was

* Vol. vii., p. 37.

† Pro. Arch. Bristol, 1851.

supported by two large figures of wood; it was paved with black and white marble squares; there was a music gallery at the end, and a chapel. The house was square, with square stoned mullioned windows, with gothic heads and labels: there was a draw-bridge. The porter's lodge had a large gateway and a small one, and images about it, and a text of scripture. This last was recovered and set up in the Chantry aisle at Bitton by the late vicar of the parish. The vane was a figure representing a Moorish king on his knee delivering up his sword. This was adopted as the Newton crest and is on nearly all their tombs.

Jane Rigge was the only daughter of Thomas Rigge, of Charlcombe, in the county of Somerset. Her first husband was Robert Greyndour, Esq., who died 1447, and was buried in Newland, Forest of Dean. When Lady Barr died, 1485, she desired to be buried there also. They had founded a Chantry at Newland, called the Greyndour Chantry. "Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Greyndour, was the first wife of John Tibetot, or Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, the Lord Treasurer: he had by her a son, John, who died young."* Thus neither Lady Barr, nor her first husband were buried in the neighbourhood, and the question arises, where was Sir John Barr buried?

Barr's Court came into the possession of the Newton family, as shown in the account of the ancient manors, by marriage with the Hamptons. Philip Hampton married Alice, daughter of Joan de Gourney, 6th Hen. IV., hence their connection also with the de Gournays of Somerset and Gloucester.

The will of Lady Jane Barr, a copy of which is preserved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, is a long and curious document. I have copied so much of it as, perhaps, will satisfy the reader, but only about a third of the whole.

COPY OF WILL.

The Will of Dame Jane Lady Barre. [A.D. 1484.]†

Testamentum domine Johanne Barre.—In the Name of God, Amen. The third day of the monethe of February next folwyng after the Purification of our Lady the yere of oure Lorde Mccccxxxiiij the second yere

* Dugdale, ii. 41.

† Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Logge 16.

of the reigne of king Richard the third after the conquest of Ingland, That I Dame Jane lady Barre late the wiff of Sir John Barre knyghte in my pure wedowede in this wise make new my testament in hole and good mynde. First I bequethe my almyghty God and to oure lady his blessid moder and to all the saynts in hevyn, and my body to be buried in the parish chirche of Newlonde in my chapell of saint John the baptist and saint Nicholas withe my husbonde Robert Greyndore. Item I bequethe to the Vicar of the same chirche for my foryeten tythis and he tendirly to pray in his dayly masse and in his pulpitt for my soule dame Jane Barre and for myne husbondis soulis Robert Greyndore and Sir John Barre, my doughter Elizabeth sumtyme counteis of Worceter, my fader and moder Thomas Rigge and Kateryn his [wife]. Item I bequethe to the Cathedrall chirche of Hereford to the werke of the same chirche iij li. Item I bequethe to the bilding of the new colege of the vicars of the quere xx s. Item I bequethe to the vicars of the same college to pray for me soule and for my fader and my moders soules Thomas Rygge and Katheryn his wiffe, myne husbondis soules Sir Johne Barre, Robert Greyndore, and all my frendis soules xl s. Item my will is that there be ordeyned for my beryng xvj torchis p's every torch v s. and xij tapers, and every taper of ij li. of wax, to brenne at my diriges and massis duryng the terme of all service to the pleasure of God and helthe of my soule and all cristen soules. And my will is that the seid torchis and tapers brenne as well oute of the chirche as in the chirche in tyme of service while they will endure. I bequethe to xvj poure men that shall hold and bere the forseid torchis at dirigis and massis xvj gownes and xvj hodis of blak cloth and every man of theym vj d. in money, with mete and drink for their labour. And my will is that xij pore men and they may be gete have xij gownes and hodis to them of blak cloth and everich of them to have iiij d. in money for ther labour to bere and hold the forseid tapers in tyme of diriges and massis iiij s. for theym. Item I bequethe to every prest beyng at my diriges and massis in the day of my beryng xij d. to every clerk ij d. and to the bedeman a blak gowne and a hode and iiij d. to pray for my souls. Item I will that there be ordeyned mete and drink ynow for all maner people that comythe to my buryng, and my will is that all pore men and women have mete and drink and every of them j d. Item I bequethe to helpe to mary pore maydens viij li. Item I bequethe to helpe to make weris and brigges xx li.* Item my will is that myne executours kepe my monethis mynde through the yere with the prestes and clerkes of the same chirche where my body shall be buried. . . .

* See "History of Bitton Parish," Ellacombe.

Item I bequethe to the auter of saint Kateryne at Bytton in the parishe chirche there a goodly paire of vestments of blak chamlett with a cope of the same clothe to serve there, for myne aunceters be buried in that chapell, and the prest to pray tendirly for the soulis of them. Item I bequethe to the parish chirche of Charlecombe wher I was cristenyd a crosse of copir and gilt to be borne in the procession the which is now in my chapell at Clowrewall. Mend. this is the will of me dame Jane Lady Barre for Thomas Beyman and Alice his wiff First a large hongyny bed of red say with coverlett curtens with all the costeris and bankers of redde that longith thereto to serve the grete chamber of Clowrewall. Item a large federbed with a bolster of feders ij large matras a paire of fustians ij paire of blanketts a large quylt of silk with armys. Item iij payre of large shetes, iij hede shetes for the same, iij long large pelowes of downe. Item iiij long quoshons of diverse colours. Item a payre of aundeyrans with a fyre staf for the chambre, ij chafers of bras to hete water with. Item a large flatt basyn of silver with a gilt holy lambe in the botome, with an ewer of silver for the same basyn, ij covered cuppis of silver. Item ij salt salers of silver and one of them is covered. Item for the chambir next to the grete chamber a white honging bed steynid with branchis and rosis and ive levis with all thapparell of steynid clothis for the same chamber. Item a federbed with a bolster a paire of blankettys with quoshons. Item for the parloure next to the hall In primis a large honging steyned bedde of russet lynyn cloth with costers to the same bedde the which is steynyd with blew gredeirons and rosis with branchis of ive with thapparell of curtens and costeris of the same. Item a blake bedde of say with costers tapettes and quoshons of the same for the seid parlour. Item a federbed with a bolster, a payr of blankettes, ij payr of shets of iij yerdis in brede, ij hed shetes a large long pelowe for the same bedde. Item for the draught chambre with in the seid parlour In primis a hongyng bed of lynen cloth. Item a federbed a payre of blanketts. . . . Item for the hall ij hongyngs of staynyd clothis one is of the *Whele of Fortune* and anothir is of *Gye of Warwike*. Item a grete paire of aundeyrans for the hall. Item for the chambers a grete depe bason of latone with iij or iiij of other of laton and pewter. Memd. to my cosyn Alice Beyman and to her heyris for the chapell of Clowrewall In primis a grete portues of Salisbery use. Item a large grete masse boke, a chalis of silver and gilt. Item a pair of vestments of grene damaske. Item a corporas with a caas. Item a pax of silver and gilt. Item a pair of cruettes of silver. Item iij clothis of lynen to ly on the auter. Item a long table of alabastre that is now over the auter. Item an ymage of saynt John in alabastre, another of tree of saint Anne peynted, an holy water stokke of laton with a dayshell to the same, ij short carpetts for

knellyng stolis, ij long quoshons of double redde say. Item long quoshons of grene and diverse colours With the cofyr in the chapell to put in bokes and vestymentes. Item the hongying of the chapell and a little paire of organs. Item the box of silver in whom ys the sacrament and a cloth to hong afor the auter with redellis. Item a paire of candelstykkes of laton for the auter. Item a goodly payre of vestymentes for halydayes. Mend. for the kechyn ij grete standing crokkes standing in a walle. Item a cawdron standing in the wall, ij long rackes, ij long brochis a long rake with hoks to hong potts on, ij lesse brochis and ij posnetts. Mend. for the brewarne a grete fornesse of bras and of lede. Item a grete cawdron of bras, iij large pannys with other dyverse veshelles of tree. Mend. for the pantree In primis iij long and depe candilstickkes of laton. Item iiij other candilstickkes of laton for chambers. Item dyverse sorts of napry for the hye borde and for other lowe bordis. Memd. to Elizabeth Cornewale Maistres of Burford. In primis my grete matens booke covered with russett. Item a long rolle with xv oys and other divers prayers. Item a long cheyne of gold with ij Agnus Dei closid in gold one grete another lesse with diverse other reliks closid in gold hanging on the same cheyne for her nycke. Item a long corse of cloth of tyssue redde and the harnys of clene gold. Item a ryng of gold with a grete ruby in hym. Item a depe saltsaler of silver and gilt. Item a good federbed with a bolstor of feders. Item ij good pellowes. Item a paire of large blankettes a paire of shetes of iij bredis. Item a hed shete. Item a coverlet of grene arasse and diverse colours with a ymage and an unicorn, with testure of the same cloth. Memd. for my nece Elizabeth de la Bere. In primis a long corse of crymsyn silk with harnes of clene gold. Item a matens boke well elumyned with ymagery and covered with blak saten. Item a good federbed with a bolster of feders ij long pelowes of downe and everiche of them a yerde in length and more. Item iij paire of large shetes. Item ij bedshetes with a paire of fustians. Item a wrethid cuppe of silver covered. Item a long small saltsaler of silver with ij sponys of silver. . . . Item to sir William Lombe yarson of Litle Markille to pray for me xl s. Item I bequethe to sir Thomas Kenchester parson of Staunton, in the forest of Dene xx s. Item I bequethe to sir John Tyler vicar of Bitton to pray for me xx s. Item I bequeth to sir Edward Kermarden vicar of Clehungre xx s. Item I bequethe to sir Robert Waren sumtyme vicar of Lydney for th'array of his body xxvj s. viij d. Item vj s. viij d. to putt in hys purs. Item I bequeth to sir William Nayler chauntry preste of Lydney xxvj s. viij d. Item I bequeth to sir Hew Gylis vicar of the quere of Hereford xx s. Item I bequeth to the chauntry prest of Bitton by Keynsam xiiij s. iiij d. Item I bequeth to the prest that syngith at Charleton fast by Bath xiiij s.

iiij d. Item I bequeathe to Humfrey Smert myn old servaunt v li. Item I bequethe to Margarete his wiff to fynd her with iij li. Item I bequeth to William Moton jentilman of Saint Brevells xl s. Item I bequethe to William Walker of Hy Medow, my layly xl s. Item I bequethe to Richard Wethir myn old servaunt xx s. Item I bequethe to Thomas Friend myn old servaunt iij li. Item to Lewys of the botry a rose pece of silver ij sponys of silver iij li in money. Item I bequethe to William Wayte my botler a Frenshe pece of silver. Item a spone xx s. Item I bequeth to John Wring my panter a Frenshe pece of silver with a spone xx s. Item I bequethe to John Vaver myn old servaunt iij li. Item I bequethe to Thomas Aprise xl s. Item I bequethe to Richard Rede my jentilman iiij li. Item I bequethe to Pers Luddinton my clerk xx s. Item I bequethe to Edmund aPowell my clerk xx s. I bequethe to Thomas Traheyron xx s. Item bequethe to John Birch my Cooke xxvj s. viij d. Item I bequethe to Richard of the kechyn my slawghter man xij s. iiij d. Item I bequethe to Thomas my baker xx s. Item I bequethe to John Bayly yeoman of the brewarne xx s. Item I bequethe to John Palmer yeoman of my stable xx s. Item I bequethe to George Smert xx s. Item I bequethe to John Gilbert xx s. Item I bequethe to Joan Waver to help her to marriage xl s. I bequethe to Margarete Bayly my launder xij s. iiij d. Item I bequethe to Gilmyn Frenshman xij s. iiij d. Item I bequethe to Gillam Taylour of the chamber xij s. iiij d. Item I bequethe to Adam Barbour vj s. viij. Memd. yf so be that eny of theis my servauntes now above wretyn departe oute of my service afore my dethe my bequest be to them as none butt voyde and this is utterly my will. Item the residue of all myn other goodis I yeve and bequethe to my executours that they dispose yt to my and desire here folowyng I charge you myn executours as ye shall answere to for almyghty God that ye truly performe my testament as yt is wrete here afor in this boke acording in every thing after myne hole entent and will and that ye defraude no thing there of, but as sone as ye may have leysour after my deth that my will may be fulfillid without delay except yt be to such persones that ye think will troble you. And so be that Thomas Beynam or Alice his wiff sir John Mounford or any other in the namys will vex or trouble you in the lawe or without the lawe my bequests to them afor wretyn be voide and I charge you delyver them nothing. Item my will ys that all such stuff that remaynyth not bequethid that yt be sold and do for my soule to poure chirchis, to mending and making of evill weyes and briggis, and all manner of simple bedding my will is that ye yeve and departe it to poure folks to pray for my soule all cristen soules. And yf so be that myne executours will by, any of my stuff not bequethid my will is that they or he may have yt afor any other man and beter chepe

with eny other person. And as thus avysid now I ordeyne and make myne executours whose namys be wrete with myen hand here folowyng. And I bequethe and geve to everich of them truly to performe my will for his labour x li. sir Philip Beynam my chauntry prest, sir John Skynner parson of English Bekenor, Thomas Morgan gentilman of Glouceter, John Carwent of Newent, and Thomas Beynam esquier overseer and he to have myn holy water stopp and dayshell of silver.

Probatum suprascriptum testamentum apud Knoll' xxij^o die mensis Julij anno domini M.cccc.lxxxv^{to} ac per nos approbatum &c. Et commissa fuit administracio domino Philippo Beynam Joh'i Skynner et Thome Morgan personaliter comparentibus et Joh'i Carent in persona M. Nich'i' Bollis procuratoris sui &c. de bene &c. de pleno Inventario citra festum Omnium Sanctorum proxime &c. ac de pleno et vero compoto &c.

After the death of Lady Barr the mansion and estates came to the Newtons by a marriage with one of the co-heiresses to the estates. The first of these was supposed to be Sir Richard Cradock, *alias* Newton, and who was also supposed to be buried in the Cathedral church in Bristol, where, as already noticed, is a monument with his name inscribed. This Sir Richard Newton was a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Henry VI's reign, and it is thought, as probable, that he died 1449, and was buried not in Bristol but at Yatton. The evidence of this rests on the fact that another judge was appointed in that year as his successor, and that his will was proved at Lambeth, November 28th, 1448. Also, that in Yatton church, there is a tomb, on which is a remarkable effigy of a judge of the Common Pleas, whose death is believed to have taken place in 1449. He is attired in official robes and a coif, a girdle round his waist and a purse at his right hand, shown by the opening of his robe, as is a small portion of his collar of esses on his right shoulder. His hands, on which are massive rings, are raised in the attitude of prayer. His head rests on a garb, his crest; and at his feet are two dogs. By his side is his wife, attired in a close surcoat and a mantle; and a head-dress somewhat resembling that of women of Normandy; and wearing a solid necklace and a heavy chain of gold. This monument is in the Wyke aisle of the parish church, which is named after Domina Wyke, the judge's wife. This, then, is supposed to be the resting-place of Sir Richard Cradock

Newton, and not that over which is inscribed his name in Bristol Cathedral. I must leave my readers to form an opinion for themselves.

In the same church is a pair of effigies supposed to represent a son of the judge and his lady; the first Sir John Newton. This supposition rests on the evidence of head-dress and dress of a similar character as the last. The knight and his lady are very juvenile in appearance, and it is presumed they were prepared by his own order during his lifetime.

The monument in Bristol Cathedral is thought to have been erected to Richard Newton, a grandson to Richard Cradock Newton, and who died a century later, 1501: hence arose the supposition of the mistake about the name and date when it had become mutilated. The monument is similar to others which came into notice and were erected about that period only. There appear to be only four or five of the kind in England: Chaucer's, in Westminster Abbey; Sir Wm. Fitzwilliam's, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor; and another is at Ringwood, in Hampshire. These each have a recess at the side of the tomb, intended for the accommodation of a chantry-priest.

The tombs of the Newtons are in the Newton chapel, Bristol Cathedral. Against the south wall in the same chapel are two handsome tombs; the first is composed of alabaster and freestone, and has at top three shields of arms; on one, belonging to a man, is 24 coats, and on another, belonging to a woman, twelve coats, and on a middle shield only two coats, viz., of a man and woman impaled. This is the monument erected to Sir John Newton, the baronet. On the tomb is his effigies in full armour, but bare-headed, the right hand raised holding a truncheon, the left extended by his side holding his sword. The head rests on a large cushion. The back of the monument was elevated; twisted columns of black marble, with Corinthian capitals, supporting an architrave, above which is a shield of arms: Argent on a chevron azure, three garbs or; impaling party per pale or and gules, an eagle displayed azure, for *Stone*. On the other side of the shield are two female figures, in the place of supporters; and crowning the whole is the crest of the kneeling Moorish king, as in the other monuments. It appears that the damp obliterated the in-

scription on this tomb, but it was preserved in "Dingley's History from Marble," as follows:—

Here . lyeth . interred . the . body
 of . Sir . Jno. . Newton . of
 Barrscourt . in . the . County
 of . Gloucester . Baronet
 who . departed . this . life
 XIV. . of . February
 MDCLXI.

The next is a lofty monument to Sir Henry Newton, of Barr's Court. Underneath lie the effigies of a man in armour and a woman in full proportion, and under them two sons and four daughters; above them is a tablet with this inscription:—

"Here lies Sir Henry Newton, of Barr's Court, in the county of Gloucester, Kt., who married Katherine, the daughter of Sir Thomas Paston, of Norfolk, Kt., by whom he had two sons and four daughters. When he had lived full 70 years religiously towards God, loyally towards his Prince, and virtuously towards men, he ended his life in the year of grace 1590, in assured hope of a glorious resurrection."

"Gourney, Hampton, Cradock, Newton last,
 Held on the measure of that ancient line
 Of barons' blood; full seventy years he past,
 And did in peace his sacred soul resign:
 His church he loved; he lov'd to feed the poor;
 Such love assures a life that dies no more."

Many other members of these ancient families are interred elsewhere in the neighbourhood of Bristol, where suitable and interesting monuments are also found.



CHAPTER XXV.

ANCIENT VILLAGES.

BITTON.

STILL pursuing our course on the Bath road we cross the Midland railway, and on our left pass the extensive paper-mills of Messrs. Sommerville, enlarged and rebuilt in 1876. Here are about 400 hands employed manufacturing nearly forty tons of the finest writing paper per week for the Government. It appears that they made the paper used for the census in 1881. A half a mile and we are in the heart of the village. This village is the most ancient on the margin of Kingswood Forest, and its beginning is lost in obscurity. It is supposed to have taken its name from a small river which runs through it—the river Boyd; hence the name Boyd town, and now corruptly rendered Bitton. The *Via Julia*, the site of the ancient Roman road on which we have, hitherto, been pursuing our course from St. George, runs through the village; and it is here, without doubt, that the *Trajactus* station, mentioned in the *Iter* of *Antonine*, existed—six miles from Bath (*Aqua Solis*), and twenty-eight miles from *Isca*—Careleon, on the opposite side of the Bristol Channel. The road from Don John's Cross can be traced to *Abone*, the station at Sea Mills. In contradistinction to this road, the road through the forest, or the London road, is called the *Augustus* causeway.

The church at Bitton is very ancient, and is supposed to stand on the site of a heathen temple, tesserae of Roman pavements having been found in the churchyard, with abundance of cinerary ware and burnt earth; also many coins of the Roman emperors. It has been recently restored, and contains many interesting subjects for study, especially for archæologists and architects. There is a beautiful tower built about the year 1377, also some good solid Norman work

Bitton was formerly in the diocese of Worcester, and is a prebend, founded at an early unknown date, in the Cathedral of Salisbury. The village contains several ancient houses; perhaps the vicarage house, subsequently called the parsonage and rectory, is the oldest. It was founded before the year 1280, and old parts of it still remain. Here lived some of the Seymour family in later times, one of which was murdered in the house. There are several oil paintings in the house supposed to be from the hand of Colonel Seymour, a noted painter in the reign of Queen Anne, thought to be one of this family.

Another old mansion is the manor house, which dates from David le Blund, 1287. The dovecote—*columbarium*, mentioned in a deed, 1444, is still there. Here lived the Blount's family for so many years, who subsequently lived at Mangotsfield and Filton, one of whom built the Elizabethan manor house on Rodway Hill. The Blounts intermarried with the Seymours, the Daubeney's, and the Husseys of Sleaford. This old manor house is also called the "Court," and under this name, in later times, is associated with another family, the Dennisses. This family had their estates in, and resided at, Pucklechurch.* The premises passed through several owners; Sir Thomas Edward Freemantle, Bart., now Lord Cottesloe, was the owner in 1847.

The account of the great Seymour family may be interesting here, as showing how, during their prosperity, its very numerous branches, like Joseph's progeny, "ran over the wall." Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, attainted and beheaded, 1551, was a brother to Lady Jane Seymour, who married Henry VIII. He had a base son, John, consequently he was nephew to the Lady Jane. This John Seymour is styled, right worshipful John of Bitton. He was lessee of the prebend there. He married Jane, a daughter of Sir Nicholas Pointz, of Yate, whose mother was a daughter of Thomas Berkeley. He was buried at Frampton Cottrel, 1598. In "Vincent's baronage" this Sir John is styled, "*Nothus*."† A daughter of his married John Seed, of Cully

* See account of Ancient Manors.

† In the "Lives of the Berkeleys," Smith calls him "base son of Edward, Duke of Somerset."

Hall, and was buried at Bitton. Also Elizabeth, another daughter, married John Webb, buried at Pucklechurch or Siston. Their brother, Sir Thomas, an only brother, was High Sheriff of Gloucester. He was buried at Frampton Cottrel, 1627. This Sir Thomas left two sons only. The eldest of these, Sir John, left three daughters and one son. He was buried at Bitton, 1663. His only son, Sir Thomas—it is not known where he died or where buried; he died about the year 1675. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Lyte, of Lytes Cary, Somerset. They had fourteen children, eight daughters and six sons. The arms of the Seymours are to be seen, but defaced, in the interesting chapel which adjoins the Lytes Cary house. Before terminating this account of the Seymours, it may be interesting to notice the home of Elizabeth Lyte, about the time she married Thomas Seymour, of Bitton. Indeed, the associations, education, and surroundings are so uniquely alike at Lytes Cary and Bitton, that I cannot refrain from giving here an extract of an account of a visit I made to Lytes Cary some years ago, and which was published in the local papers at Yeovil.

LYTES CARY.

During the summer holidays thousands of persons run away to the seaside, presumably in search of health or pleasure, forgetting, often, those numerous healthy and romantic spots so delightfully situated among the many beautiful hills and vales inland, and which may be only a few miles from home. There, often, health may be sought and as effectually attained as a hundred miles away. And as to the pleasure, what can be more enjoyable than the pure air, delightful scenery, historic old homesteads and their hallowed associations, that carry us backward in history six or seven centuries? Such, at least, was our feelings and the subject of our chat when a few of us took a ramble over the romantic old hall at Lytes Cary. Starting from Somerton, a quaint and quiet old town, decidedly a place for rest, undisturbed, as yet, by the rude noise of train or tram, we descend the spur of the hill on which it stands, to the little river Cary—"a meandering streamlet of silver fish." On our right we are reminded of the beautiful park and mansion of Colonel Pinney,

behind which is a dense wood and the high hill and village of Kingsdon, once the manor and possession of John Fitz Allen, Earl of Arundel, afterwards Edward, Earl of Warwick and Salisbury. Our way to Lytes Hall, three miles, keeps this hill in view the entire distance. To our left lie the extensive lands and woods of Mr. F. Dickinson, of Kingsweston Park. The ancient hamlet of Hurdecote, with its beautifully situated farm and out-buildings; the semi-circular hills behind forming the end of the Polden ridge running east of Compton Dundon. Facing Compton Dundon is the old Elizabethan house, "Ivy Thorn," where lived the Whittingtons, who also had a mansion at Bitton, and whose ancestors lie in Bitton church. The old house is nestled in a hollow of the Polden range, with a splendid southern prospect. The views from this hill, and right away round the Polden Hills to the windmill at Walton, are most exquisite. The vast moors, with their tints of every hue; the golden grain; patches of dense green and red clovers; its whitened barley fields; dried bean fields, where the ripened beans are blackening in the hot sun, "waiting for the wain." And this varied and repeated for a distance of twenty miles, likens this charming view to a dainty piece of needlework or patchwork of the richest and most exquisite colours.

We leave the old London coach road, and pass Welham Farm on our right, following the Cary valley and river to the renowned Lytes Hall. Tall elms cover the roadway with their refreshing shade as we enter the quiet little village of Charlton, with its beautiful church, ivy-covered tower, and ancient tombs of some of the Lytes' family. Here we linger to view the last resting-place of Henry, who wrote that curious book, "The Light of Britayne," and who gave us "The New Herbal of Plants." No resting-place could be more befittingly chosen for a lover of botany than this. Here is the sombre shade of yews, elms, oaks, and numerous evergreen trees, with their dark and handsome foliage. Sweet odours are borne upon every breeze from the thousands of wild flowers of the lanes and the beautiful grounds of the vicarage behind the church. In the spring the apple blossoms load the air with their perfume, and in the autumn the fruits of the orchard rival the flowers of spring with their

delicate fragrance. Winter also is gay with its hollies and laurels, while the crimson hips and haws, which lie on the hedge-row literally in myriads, make the village lanes charming even in December. In all this, however, there reigns a profound stillness. For hours one may linger in the neighbourhood and hear nought to break the silence but the song of birds mingled sometimes with the notes of sweet Philomel.

Reluctantly we leave the quiet, and a walk of twenty minutes brings us to Lytes Cary. Here, Messrs. Porter, who reside at Lytes Cary Hall, and who are farming the lands, kindly show us over the building, the north part of which has been rebuilt as a farm-house. This latter building is all out of harmony with the old mansion, and, indeed, destroyed nearly one-half of the original when erected. The foundations and cellars of the old, however, are wholly preserved. Some suppose that a mansion was built here in the time of Edward III., which is the date of the chapel adjoining, but the present building is of the sixteenth century architecture.

It was probably built by John Lyte, whose arms and that of his wife, Elizabeth, are in the south front. Between the oriel windows of this front is a shield bearing the arms of Lyte and Horsey, with the date 1533. The letters, J. E., L. H., on it are the initials of John Lyte and Elizabeth Horsey. The seat of the Horsey family was Clifton Maybank, near Yeovil. The Lytes' arms are gules, a chevron between three swans *argent*. The crest, as given by Burke, a demi-swan *argent*, with wings expanded *gules*, against a plume of feathers, the middle one of the first, the other two of the second.

J. H. Parker, C.B., F.S.A., says, "Lytes Cary Hall is one of the most perfect buildings remaining of the sixteenth century period of domestic architecture of England." It is in the Perpendicular style, having a decorated chapel, which is the remains of an earlier mansion. A noble hall, with its poor windows and fine open roof, its porch, its oriels, its state rooms, with their rich ceilings and panellings of later date, and a small feature of peculiar interest—a door screen, enriched with linen pattern and a crest of Tudor flowers. Compare the eastern with southern fronts. The eastern is one mass of gables; the southern perfectly

flat, broken only by central oriels; the chapel at one end, something so wholly distinct as in no wise to invade its uniformity. Modern architecture would suggest many alterations, but, it is believed, not much to its improvement, or that would add to its original beauty. The finials of the gables in the east front—one a swan with wings expanded, the other a horse sejant, each holding a shield—are modifications of the crests of the Lyte and Horsey families. The open roof was richly ornamented with various arms, carved in wood, some of which remain. At the south-east corner of the large hall there is a small room, with fireplace and window walled up, looking east. There is also a “squint” walled up, looking towards the chapel door. What appears to be a piscina is served in the same way, and is scarcely ever noticed. There is a square recess by the side of the fireplace and the remains of a raised step. This step is supposed by some to be that whereon the chantry priest knelt, the room also being his devotional quarters. A narrow passage leads from opposite this room to the chapel. The chapel, as already intimated, is of the time of Edward III., of a marked ecclesiastical character, and a very perfect specimen so far as the walls and roof make the chapel; but all the fittings are gone, and the piscina mutilated. The east window is three lights, with reticulated tracery. The side windows square-headed, with similar tracery; and the door has a good canopy. W. George, of Bristol, who has taken some pains in noting this house, supposes that when Lord Goring, and afterwards Fairfax and his Parliamentarians, came to Long Sutton, some of his reckless spirits visited this place and mutilated it, but there is no proof of this.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Henry Lyte resided at Lytes Cary. He was the thirteenth in lineal descent of that surname and family. He was the son of John Lyte and Elizabeth Horsey, whose initials are on the south window. He was born 1529. Became a student of Oxford *tem.* of Henry VIII. Afterwards he spent some years in the study of philosophy. He also travelled considerably. He died 1607, aged 78, and was buried in the north end of the transept of Charlton Mackerel Church. The Lytes were the Lords of the Manor of Charlton. Thomas

Lyte, a son of the above by his second wife Frances, daughter of John Tiptoft, of London, was also an author. He was educated at Somerset and Oxford, but left without a degree. He drew up a genealogy of James I. from Brute, written on vellum, and illuminated with paintings of kings and queens. It was of the circumference of twenty large sheets of paper, and cost the author seven years' labour. James was so taken with it that he gave his portrait in gold set with diamonds, accompanying the gift with many gracious thanks. A portrait of Thomas Lyte wearing this jewel is now (1879) in the possession of Mr. H. C. Maxwell Lyte. A detailed list may be found among the archives of the University of Oxford. In 1588 he wrote "*The Light of Britayne*," a most curious book, which is an attempt to account for the origin of the British people; together with their original names and localities derived from Brutus and the Trojans. Here is an extract having reference to local names:—

"The daughters of heaven and earth, *i.e.*, *Isis, Themis, Rheu, Thetis, Abus, Arius, Alanus ax, Tameris*, and our fathers, famous Ryvers of Britayne, with the Ducalion Sea, &c., are glorious records of Brute and of the Trojans, the founders of Britayne. Divers of our most ancient Towns and Citties of Britayne, as Oxford upon the Isis and Themis, &c.; Tynton upon Tamaris with divers other Rivers of Britayne, are records of Brute and the Troyans foundere of Brtayne. The Divers nations and people also as the Scotobrigantes, the people of Albania-Calydonia and Aetolia—the Dorcs—Iones and Cares, and the Tamarites of Tyanton, commonlie called Tanton, all these are records of Greece and Asia, remaynes of the Nogans that came to Britayne with Brute."

This wonderful book Lyte presented to Queen Elizabeth "as she was on her way to St. Paul's to return thanks for her deliverance from the Spanish Armada."

Another work which Thomas Lyte produced was "*The New Herbal of Plants*." This is a large handsome book in black letter, and is beautifully illustrated. The work appears to be a translation of M. Clusias's French version of D. Rembert Dodoens' Dutch Herbal. This D. R. Dodoens was at the time physician to the Emperor.

It is said a botanic garden existed at Lytes Cary, but there is

no proof of it at hand. Thos. Lyte does not mention it in his works.

Thomas Lyte died 1638, and was buried in the Lytes Cary Chapel, which forms the north transept of the Parish Church of Charlton. It is to this genealogist we are indebted for the numerous shields of arms of the Lyte family, so battered on the walls of the old chapel.

In 1755, the Old Manor was sold and passed to the Lockyers, and thence to the present owner, Mr. F. H. Dickinson. The Rev. Henry Francis Lyte, incumbent of Lower Brixham, Devon, was a lineal descendant of the first two literary worthies. He published several works, but is best known by his beautiful hymn, "Abide with me."

This once popular family of Seymours became extinct. The eldest of the fourteen children of Elizabeth Lyte and Thomas Seymour, was a physician to the Royal Hospital of Plymouth, where he died, 1741. Berkeley, his only brother, died at Westminster; he lived at Bitton, and devised his estate to Jane, his only sister. This lady was buried at Woodford, 1770. And now we come to the last of this historic family. John Seymour, the physician, left four children, grand-children of Elizabeth, of Lytes Cary, and Thomas, her husband. Berkeley, the eldest of these, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, died 1777. He was unmarried, and had petitioned for the Dukedom. Margaret married Reginald Osborne, and cannot be traced. Hester was a lunatic, 1776. A sister, Jane, was left in Bitton, but subsequently disappeared. There remained after this, to point a moral, one illegitimate child by Sarah Bright, a daughter of the parish clerk, Berkeley Seymour's *Nothus*.


"Sic transit gloria mundi."



CHAPTER XXVI.

ANCIENT VILLAGES.

COCKROAD.

UR next village lies in the centre of the Forest. Retracing our steps for a mile or more, we pass the road to Oldland's Common and St. Anne's Chapel. We would fain linger in this place, but the old attraction is gone. St. Anne's Chapel was one of the unusual sights to see in church architecture in bygone days. It brought before one a bit of the old world. Its handsomeness or beauty lay in its extreme simplicity. A little plain square tower, with its saddle-backed roof lying the contrary way of a similar roof to the chapel; its quaint old porch, and small, but elegant windows; its elevation, perched upon a mound or rising bank, and over-topped with an old yew, gave to St. Anne's the impression of respect and reverence. The whole work was of a very early period. The church is mentioned in Bishop Gifford's time, Bishop of Worcester, about 1280. It was pulled down in 1830, and a new church erected. Its two tiny bells, inscribed "*Sancta Anna*," are now in Holy Trinity Church at Kingswood. We now re-pass the site and farm of old Barrs Court to Cadbury Heath, a village now of some fifty houses. On our right hand lie the coal works of the esteemed Fussell Brothers, of Kingswood. On our left hand the eye ranges over the ground, once so famous for coals. All has now changed; no sign of an engine, pit, or anything of the kind appears.

We pass up a hilly lane, and turn sharp round to the west, and we reach the notorious hill and village of Cockroad. Some have supposed that this place took its name from cock-fighting, as being in character with the villagers in early times. It would appear, however, that it took its name from a practice

of keeping narrow clearances or roadways in forests for the purpose of trapping woodcocks; nets were spread across these openings, and the birds driven into them. A similar name in the Forest is Cockshot Hill. Perhaps no other village in England surpassed Cockroad for its notoriety in robbery a hundred years ago. So full of lawless persons, highwaymen, and burglars was it that often many places near were plundered at the same time. Persons were stopped, grossly insulted, and robbed in daylight. Gangs of ruffians by day and by night were always on the watch, the spot upon which the chapel now stands being their general rendezvous, or outlook. From this spot they could see anyone approaching at a great distance—hence they prepared accordingly. No one dared to approach this den; it was a universal terror. The whole of the villagers were robbers, and lived on their plunder. Sallying forth to Bristol, Bath, Gloucester, Hereford, and even as far as Manchester, and then returning with their booty. Farmers would occasionally come with the constables in search of lost property, and their own pigs or sheep were paraded before their eyes, while the robbers laughed in their faces; but they dared not touch them, and could not identify the pigs or sheep, as they were dressed. Indeed this place became so bad, and robbery with violence so frequent, that it became a serious question with the Bristol authorities how to put it down. At last they hit upon the right plan. Collecting together the watchmen and city guards “they sent them in a mass, in the dead of night, over to Cockroad, where, by the aid of local constables, they surrounded every house consecutively, taking every man they could lay their hands upon into custody indiscriminately, and hurrying them off to Bristol.” But few were liberated, some were transported, others hanged. The notorious “Dick Boy,” of whom a life has been written, and who was hanged at Bristol, and the Kaine’s or Cain’s family, many of whom were hanged at Gloucester, were from Cockroad and Cadbury, the village near by.

Of the latter family of five sons and one daughter, three were transported, and the daughters’ three husbands were transported also. An old inhabitant of the place, William Lintern, used to say, one of his earliest recollections was that of paying a penny

to see the two brothers, who had been hanged, lying in their coffins; for the bodies had been given up to their relatives, and they had turned them to account by making them a show! * These men were buried at Bitton; the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, then a curate, officiated at the Parish Church.

It is recorded of the notorious robber, "Dick Boy," that on a certain evening he agreed with his father, who was also a highwayman, to go out together, and then each to take a certain number of lanes, converging somewhere and thus forming somewhat of a circle. It was further agreed that, during their prowl, either should knock down the first person he came upon, and rob him. It so happened that Dick, who was much stronger than his father, got on a long way in his course, and coming upon his father, whom he did not anticipate so soon, sprung upon him, and knocked him down, at the same time dealing him a tremendous kick. The old man down, feebly gasped out "Our Dick! our Dick!" when Dick, who had raised his foot for another kick, fell on his father, and burst into tears; he knew from the blow he had given mischief was done. The old man was so injured that Dick had to carry him home on his back a distance of three miles. Dick is said to have repented in prison.

The depravity and benighted condition of the villagers of Cockroad was a subject of considerable anxiety to the respectable and religious families living near to that place, and for several miles around. Indeed what was to be done to improve the moral tone and social condition of such a people was a question which then could hardly be answered. At this juncture a society, designated "The Bristol Methodist Sunday School Society," established in 1804, acting, it appears, independent of the Wesleyan Conference, erected at considerable cost a very commodious School-house, which was opened in 1813. Here both Day and Sunday Schools were established, and have done good work ever since. This good work, it is said, was begun by Mr. Henry Budgett, his brother Samuel afterwards co-operating with him; but among the principal workers, and one of the chief promoters, as well as treasurer to the society, was Mr.

* W. Arthur, M.A.

John Edgecome Lavers, who also afterwards kindly undertook the duties of superintendent of the schools. To the surprise of the promoters seventy-five children came to the school the first day it was opened, children whose characters in this singularly notorious neighbourhood can be better imagined than described. Seventeen only partially knew the alphabet, and none could read. All these poor children were entirely dependant on a system of robbery and plunder for their support. But the school thrived, and became a great blessing in the neighbourhood, and thus what they had apprehended would have been surrounded with insurmountable difficulties was easily established, whilst their fears all vanished in a little practical work.

The Budgett family—the late “successful merchant” and his sons, all formerly took great interest in this place.

The views from this neighbourhood south of the village are exceedingly pretty. The beautiful valley of the Avon, with its meandering stream, is seen the whole distance from Bath to Bristol. Everywhere its lovely green is dotted over and finely interspersed with tall elms, oaks, and bits of wood, which, with their luxuriant foliage and bewitching colours, cannot fail to please the eye and charm the mind.

Passing from this village eastward, following the line of the forest down Grimsby Hill, we come almost immediately into the next village of

WARMLEY.

The first house on our right—the “old Grange,” or Grimsby Farm, was a good house in the year 1610, then the dwelling-place of the “Woodwards,” mentioned many times in connection with King’s Forest in this place.

Formerly the village of Warmley was considered only a small hamlet in the parish of Siston. It had neither a chapel nor church nearer than Kingswood; consequently its poorer inhabitants, chiefly the neglected colliers, were very benighted and ignorant. It has now a beautiful church, with tall spire and six sweetly-toned bells; a neat Independent chapel, and a considerable number of newly-built houses. The inhabitants

also, in manners and domestic comforts, have undergone a marked change.

During the dark days of this place and Cockroad, two gentlemen rode down from Deor, in Wiltshire, seeking stolen property, suspected to be hidden in the former village or here. They put up their steeds, two noble animals worth about £70 each, in a stable at the Crown Inn, at the same time placing a man in charge to watch them. When all was quiet at midnight murmuring voices were heard, and several men entered the stable by force, uttering dreadful oaths. The watchman, frightened, hid himself, and the horses were driven away. No tidings were heard of the beautiful horses for several weeks, when it was suspected they had been destroyed. Search was made, and they were discovered. They had been blindfolded with rags, and had thus been driven into an old pit and killed.

The landlord of the same inn, one Samuel Fussell, who was also parish constable, was shot about the same time. In conjunction with the overseer, he was proceeding to make a distraint for tithes on the property of Edward Wilmot. Wilmot coolly awaited the constable, and shot him through a dark window. The landlord's tombstone can now be seen in the parish churchyard at Siston, on which he is represented as falling on receiving the bullet. Wilmot was hanged.

During this year, 1800, provisions were very dear, and in some places rose almost to famine prices. Flour was sold at 8s. 4d. per peck of sixteen pounds. The people at Warmley suffered greatly. A man happening to pass through the village with a load of flour was stopped by the women, one Hester Davis having called them together for the purpose. The man, becoming frightened, took off the leading horse and rode quickly back to acquaint his master of the occurrence, and on coming back found to his dismay that the whole load of flour had been sold by Hester Davis at a half-a-crown a peck, and the money placed in one of the sacks. This old woman, Hetty Davis, lived to be ninety-nine years of age, and a few weeks before her death took a journey to Swindon to see her numerous children, grand-children, etc. She was buried at Warmley, 1883.

The most interesting notices of Warmley, however, are not

her deeds of darkness, but those connected with the history of the manufacture of metals and the production of coals in this place for a long period of time. A little to the south of the village, perhaps half-a-mile, are the remains of some great works called

THE WARMLEY TOWERS.

These works are said to have been the first works in Europe established for the purpose of manufacturing Zinc from calamine, or black-jack. Mr. Champion, the proprietor, had also some excellent copper-mills here, then perhaps some of the best "hammer-mills" in England. Part of an old tower of one of the mills is still standing—whence the place takes its name. Mr. Champion also embarked in the manufacture of "zinc from calamine" stone, taking out a patent for the same in 1743. The tradition from the old people who used to work here was that Mr. Champion went over to Holland and brought over several men who were already working the secret there—it being considered such—and engaged with them for a certain number of years. Be that as it may, considerable works were carried on here for many years for the purposes above-named, more than two hundred tons of zinc being made annually, besides extensive productions in copper. Later, also, some hundreds of women and men were employed in the manufacture of pins.

The operation of procuring zinc from calamine, the old way, was very interesting. In a circular kind of oven, like a glass-house furnace, there were placed pots of about four feet each in height, much resembling oil jars; into the bottom of each was inserted an iron tube, which passed through the floor of the furnace into a vessel of water. The pots were filled with a mixture of calamine, or black-jack, and charcoal, and the mouth of each was then closely stopped with clay. The fire being then properly applied, the metallic vapour of the calamine issued through the iron tube and was condensed in the water below. These small particles were again collected, re-melted, cast into ingots, and were thus ready for the market, and sold under the name of zinc or spelter. Altogether, the works at Warmley Tower

must have appeared very like a considerable town. The large furnaces were arranged in lines and facing each other, not unlike houses in a street, their being several lines thus formed together, also with a row of cottages for workmen. A house was built in the centre for the purposes of a shop, over which was a square tower, with a large clock, having a face towards each of the cardinal points. Neither did this enterprising manufacturer neglect to make the place attractive. At the rear of his works he built a neat house for himself, in front of which he laid out a beautiful walk through several acres of meadow land. A row of elms still stands which he planted, having grown to gigantic proportions. On the western side of the house he constructed a large lake covering thirteen acres, building a very heavy dam and gates to regulate the supply of water to his mills. An ornamental arch and a house built above formed a neat entrance where the water filled the lake, the house also serving the purposes of a dwelling for the keeper of the lake and grounds. Lastly, in the centre of this beautiful lake, on a small island, stood Neptune, nearly sixty feet high—a neat piece of masonry constructed according to the traditional proportions of that monster. This image had a weird effect from a little distance. Its face, chest, and arms being made of white plaster or cement contrasted effectually with its head and lower parts of the body, which were built of rough black cinders from the works; while in one hand, extended, it held the usual barbed fork. At first sight it is said to have given a curious impression of that fabulous “monster of the mighty deep.” Altogether, therefore, the lake, grounds, and walks formed, in those days I think, one of the best arranged works in England.

There was also a large iron foundry at Warmley, the works of Messrs. Gregory, afterwards removed to Kingswood. Coal works appear to have been carried on at Warmley for a great length of time, the Jeffery family, of which there are now several descendants living, being one of the oldest families connected with that business. The principal house in Warmley, in 1610, was called “Jeffery House.” Later on, in 1670, we find the Jefferies possessed coal pits in Lord Stafford’s liberty, or lordship—this lordship was but of small extent, about forty-seven acres,

south of the Grimsby Lane. Near to the high road here also is one of the ancient "levels," constructed for the purpose of draining the pits when then in use. It comes out at the bridge, where a fine stream of water flows away into the brook that passes there. These old "levels," of which there are several, were wonderful constructions in early times. The one at Warmley is constructed to carry away the water from under the ground a distance of nearly three miles. There are several coal works still in operation at Warmley. The Crown Works belong to Messrs. Goldney and Son, the senior partner of whom is M.P. for Chippenham. A large building intended for an hotel has been built on the site of an old coal work formerly belonging to the Lady of the Manor. Other coal works here belong to J. H. Hadley, Esq., of London. In passing out of the village towards Siston's Common, there formerly stood one of those old curious engines, made for pumping water with the "open-top" cylinder—slowly, at about two strokes a minute, it groaned away night and day for nearly a hundred years. North-west of this place the ground is full of old pits—John Jacks and Flash Away, including Warmley, containing more than one hundred.



CHAPTER XXVII.

ANCIENT VILLAGES.

SISTON AND PUCKLECHURCH.

LEAVING the village of Warmley and following the Midland Railway for some distance, noticing some points of interest and names here, we make our way across the Common to

SISTON.

Curious and significant were the names formerly applied to the old works of Kingswood and neighbourhood, many of which are still retained, although all traces of the works have disappeared. Thus, besides "Flash Away" and "John Jack's" noticed, there were also adjoining these at Warmley, the works called "Made-for-ever," and "Sound-well," the two latter places being now considerable villages. Near to Flash Away, and formerly in the Earl of Rochester's liberty, there was a lake of large extent, a dam also, called "Merredith Dam," being built below it in the liberty of Sir John Newton. Through this lake and over the dam the waters of Kingswood Brook, as it was then called (1600) passed onwards towards Warmley. This lake, apparently, was resorted to for the purposes of fishing—a lane near to it still retaining the name of "Fishing Lane." In this lane are now some large and noisy works erected for the purposes of "boiler-making." On each side of the lane, also, are the "mouths" of two other "levels" similar to the one noticed above as at Warmley. One of these, the "new level," as it was called, flows into the brook in a field south of the lane, its whole length being probably two miles and a half. Taking its rise below a famous "oak," then called (in 1600) "Trinity Oak," which stood near the centre of the Forest, and contiguous to the house called the "King's Lodge," and where

afterwards a "flag-staff" was put up to mark its boundary, it then passed in a zig-zag line towards Kingswood Hill crossing south-westwardly "New Cheltenham" to within forty perches of the London Road, under Daniel Palmer's house, now the Post-office, at Kingswood. Returning again towards the New Cheltenham Road, behind Thomas Phipps' house, now Mr. T. Howes' estate, and Mr. Munro's house below, it continued its course south of the same road to the brook at Siston Common, where from its mouth flows out a luxuriant stream of many springs. This level was constructed to drain the coal works of "two liberties," one in Mangotsfield parish beyond Kingswood Lodge, and the other in Bitton parish. The number of coal-pits that stood upon this level were thirty-six.

The other level referred to, and which was about a quarter of a mile north of Fishing Lane, together with Painters' level, a level still further north, drained all the neighbourhood above and north of Soundwell; their extremities almost meeting together, and joining with the new level towards Trinity Oak, or the Flagstaff, where the new level begins.

Indeed, a complete system of drainage was effected here. In the centre of this almost circle of drains an area exists known as the "Broad Fawt." Here, it appears, there were no coals to be found, consequently no levels or drains exist in it.

It seems almost incredible, considering the difficulties the miners had in these very early times, how so many miles of drainage could be constructed, especially at so great a depth below the surface; yet we have here a piece of drainage, putting all the average lengths of the levels together, constructed and in actual use before the year 1790, amounting to nearly ten miles.

The following are the principal of the above levels, viz.:—Painter's, Cookswood Hill, and New Level, north of Kingswood; Player's, at Warmley; Cool's and Potter's levels, at Magpy Bottom, south of Kingswood. As a consequence of these levels water is sometimes scarce in South Kingswood. Not many years ago it was the custom to sell the water from a pump at a halfpenny per pail on the top of the hill. From the fragments of an old map in the British Museum, dated 1760, there were 109 pits on these levels, and 17 elsewhere.

Passing from Siston Common under the railway arch of the Midland Railway, which, we may remark was constructed on the site of an older railway, originally made for conveying coals to the river, we get into the high road to Siston. The first hamlet is "Goose Green," where surely enough are plenty of "cackling geese," fattening, I suppose, for Christmas, and making the air ring again with their "military airs." Half a mile further and we reach the National School of Webb's Heath; a neat building erected in 1826. These places are hamlets in Siston parish. Still further on, and just at the bend of the road, a lonely corner, we come suddenly upon an old church, solitary and solemn in its ivy-clad mantle, in the midst of the "dust" of ages, and standing like a solitary sentinel as though it were designedly appointed to keep watch and ward over the dead below; a plain square building and tower, without a single ornament apparently, except its beautiful green ivy and old "sun-dial." As we approach and look through its broken window, straining our eyes to read a brass tablet, we seem to smell the mildew of ages and the dust of death. Such are the impressions and associations with many when they first behold

SISTON'S OLD PARISH CHURCH.

Neither is the situation in which it stands apparently more attractive. Hardly a house or an individual is to be seen. Even the "great house," with its many servants,—enough to fill the church—is now, it seems, almost deserted. Indeed, one could hardly conceive of a more out-of-the-way or -worse place for a church. But Siston is not what it once was. Then—

"Sweet was the sound, when oft at ev'ning's close,
Up yonder hill the village murmurs rose;
There, as I pass'd with careless step and slow,
The mingling notes came softened from below.
The swain responsive as the milkmaid sung,
The sober herd that low'd to meet their young;
The noisy geese that gabbled o'er the pool,
The playful children just let home from school;
The watch-dog's voice that bay'd the whisp'ring wind,
And the loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind;

These all in sweet confusion sought the shade,
 And filled each pause the nightingale had made.
 But now the sounds of population fail ;
 No cheerful murmurs fluctuate in the gale ;
 No busy steps the grass-grown footway tread,
 But all the bloomy flush of life has fled ;
 All but yon widow'd, solitary thing,
 That feebly bends beside the plashy spring.
 She, wretched matron, forced in age, for bread,
 To strip the brook with mantling cresses spread ;
 To pick her wintry faggot from the thorn,
 To seek the nightly shed, and weep till morn.
 She only left of all the harmless train,
 The sad *historian* of the pensive plain."

Goldsmith, D. V.

The principal inscriptions in the church are the following, viz.
 —A small one to Edward Dennis, and another to Dorothy, the wife of Arthur Player ; another to Edward Strange, of Mounds Court, who died 1638 ; also to Thomas Rhodes, captain in the army of Charles I., who died 1671. Several are in brass.

Siston Church is one of the few churches where the Bible and Prayer Book may now be seen chained as in the olden times. The books lie in a recess in the wall, with a neat brass chain attached, and where one may read as in "ye olden dayes."

Siston has its redeeming features, and one must not be led always by his first impressions. At another point of view the old fane is singularly picturesque, and if the passing stranger will stroll on a summer's day to the opposite side of the valley, he will be fully repaid by the beauty of the gentle English landscape. He will then see the church standing on the sloping hill, with its background of tall elms ; the rectory with its old tithe barn nestling in the valley below, and the old court looking down from the higher ground to the left, while comfortable homesteads are dotted here and there. The church, though so simple in structure, is not without its architectural interest. It stands probably on its original Norman foundations, and consists of a nave and chancel of equal length, and a western tower, from which the merry bells ring out. It has north and south Norman doorways, and the south doorway is a good

specimen of Norman work, and will well repay careful examination; above the door is the rude representation of a tree, with small designs which may be intended for the crossed keys, and some good zig-zag carving; the capitals of the side shafts differ slightly in design, as is frequently the case in Norman work. In the east wall of the porch is a projecting stone, from which has been broken off the stoup for holy water. Just within the door of the church is the very interesting leaden font, which stands upon a plain stone base, and represents alternately our Lord in the act of judgment with a book in His hand, and in that of blessing, with the first and second fingers raised in the uplifted hand; the Norman canopy work round these figures is very varied in design. The east window is probably the original one, and is simple in character, consisting of three lights, and this, as well as most of the other windows in this church, has been rehooded and filled with stained glass.

In the church in a mutilated condition, and over the north and south doorways are the remains of black-letter texts, which have unfortunately been covered with whitewash. The chief treasures of the church are perhaps the very early parish registers, which date back to the year 1534, and a very old list of the vestments belonging to the church, which vestments were doubtless kept in the old chest in use in the vestry. The ancient silver paten is still used in the celebration of Holy Communion, and alone remains of the old church plate, the rest being of modern date.

Near to St. Ann's Church is St. Ann's Well, where is a chalybeate spring, water recommended for weak eyes. Here a large number of poor persons who have weak eyes resort to try its healing effects.

There are many old farm-houses in this village full of interest to the antiquarian, but the great sight of Siston is its great mansion, called

SISTON COURT,

a brief description of which is given under Ancient Manors. A visit to this magnificent house cannot fail to impress one with the lofty conceptions our old nobility had respecting their homes.

Everything that was beautiful, no matter how costly, was sought after to adorn and embellish these splendid homes of England. Visiting this stately building on a quiet day, and reflecting on the past, one's mind is filled with strange fancies—spirits, shadowy forms, seem to rustle in the very leaves, while the steps of the dead are heard on the eddying blast. "Old forms" of warriors, with rattling armour, clanging swords, and prancing steeds stand before you; or, beautiful and queenly forms in elegant attire, of noble or regal birth, with equally noble sires, appear to awake again from their dust, making the great hall ring once more with din of voices and sound of noisy mirth—which

"Like sound of mighty waves,
In deep resounding caves:
Like thunders shaking earth and sky;
The rolling cords swell and die."

It is stated that an Old Chronicle was kept by the proprietors of the above house, in which all accounts of worthy events were recorded. Tradition has furnished us with many stories respecting Royal persons, noblemen, and others, who have at various times visited this place. These visits may have been, if ever they occurred at all, in almost every case privately, I think, as there are no public records which give us any account of them. That there were many private visits by such persons there is no question. If Catherine of Arragon visited Siston, and made a considerable stay there, surely there would have been some notices respecting it. Bristol chronologers were keen to note Henry's visit in disguise in 1534—this was many years, however, after he had divorced Catherine; consequently, Catherine could not have been with him. The same remarks apply to Catherine Parr, who is said to have visited Mounts Court in this manor. That the Lord Say and Sele, Earl of Sandwith, Lord Privy Seal, or Baron Montagu, as he was variously called, visited Siston, there is no reason to doubt, for he was a kinsman of the Trotmans. This gentleman was a strong Presbyterian, one of Cromwell's chief followers, and had control of the whole of the fleet. The Lords Say and Sele were descended from an ancient family of the name of "Fines," of Shipton Oliffe, in

Oxfordshire. Edward Fines was Lord Clinton and Say in 35th of Henry VIII. Susannah Fines, whom I have previously noticed as being "Lady Filmer," was a sister of Lawrence, the fifth Viscount Say and Sele. A daughter of this lady married a Trotman, whose son, "Fines Trotman," combining both families' names, came into possession of Siston Court and estates. It is therefore highly probable that Baron Montagu, or Lord Say and Sele, would not only be a mere occasional guest, but a frequent visitor among his relations at Siston Court. Moreover, we find that others of this family were active movers and prominent men in the midst of the strife of those times. Colonel Nathaniel Fines was one of the chief of Cromwell's officers during the Civil wars, and was appointed Governor of the Castle and "City of Bristol, 1642." It would be in company with him, no doubt, or Lord Say and Sele, or perhaps both, that Cromwell sought the quiet and out-of-the-way mansion of Siston Court—possibly when he lay at Keynsham or Hanham with his officers or staff. For many years a pair of boots and a sword have been treasured here as having been left by Cromwell during the time of the siege of Bristol. Sir Charles Reed, a staunch "Independent," has a large collection of relics and documents formerly belonging to Oliver Cromwell, a bust also of him taken in black wax after his death. The sword, boots, etc., would be a fitting item to add to his collection.

We must leave old Siston and its many interests to the kind care of the farmer and antiquarian, and pass on to notice

PUCKLECHURCH.

What this name implies is—Beautiful Church. Camden calls it the Royal Town—"Villa Regia," because some of the royal household resided here. It is now familiarly associated with the death of King Edmund, as previously described. Bede, in his "Ecclesiastical History," has given an interesting "poetical" account of a battle in which Edmund fought with his brother, at Brumby; Edmund being then only fifteen years of age. This battle lasted from sunrise to sunset, five kings and seven earls being killed. In the poem the brothers are styled "bracelet

givers," from the custom then in practice of awarding their favourites with bracelets made of gold and precious stones. The following are a few lines from this poem:—

KING EDMUND AT THE BATTLE OF BRUMBY.

The foe they crushed,
The Scotch people
And the shipmen fated fell.

There lay many a warrior
By javelins strewed;
Northmen, over shield shot;
So the Scots eke weary, war-sad.

West Saxons onwards
Throughout the day, in bands,
Pursued the footsteps
Of the loathed nations;
They hewed the fugitives
Behind, amain,
With sword mill-sharp.

The Northmen departed
In their nailed barks;
Bloody relic of darts.

So, too, the brothers,
Both together
King and etheling,
Their country sought
West Saxon's land.

They left behind them,
The corse to devour,
The sallowy kite and swarthy raven;
Greedy war-hawk, and grey beast
Wolf of the wood.

Carnage greater has not been
In this island ever yet
Of people slain, before this,
By edges of swords, since
Hither Angles and Saxons, came, &c.

Pucklechurch, like most other places in this busy age, has of late effected some neat and considerable improvements in its neighbourhood. In the centre of the village a number of old buildings have been pulled down, and commodious "plate-glass front" provision stores erected, under the enterprising proprietor Mr. S. Page. The late Mr. Handel Cossham also has built some neat cottages and a schoolhouse for his numerous workpeople, who reside chiefly in this neighbourhood.

A neat modern house, called the Shrubby, is a conspicuous house as you enter the village, built by the late Daniel Gould, who for many years was steward to Fines Trotman, of Siston Court. The Laurels also, the residence of the Rev. Canon Coney, vicar of the parish, is a large and handsome building, having been very much enlarged and improved by the present owner. There is also a house of some pretensions near the centre of the village, formerly the residence of the late Dr. Swayne. Prominently also among the cottages are the "inns"—the "White Hart" (chief), "Fleur-de-Lis," and "Star." There are also Dissenting places of worship and neat schools. The church, which lies north of the village, is a fine lofty building, dedicated to St. Thomas, where are erected many monuments to the dead, the chief of which are to the memory of Hugh Dennis, died 1559, and others of the family who resided here, and to whom I have previously referred. Among the many curious inscriptions in the church is the following, viz. :—

"Here lyeth the body of Chs. Ridley, gent.,
Who departed this life, 1690. Aged 54."

The flourishing panaceas of our sphere,
That cured others lies withered here
By blast of death, against whose force no art
Can either medicine or help impart.
Reader, 'tis custom not necessity
On marble here presents itself to thee
For him whose lasting fame will live long
Beyond the power of verse or strength of stone
Each bleeding wound with crimson tears will be
The eterniser of his memory,

There is a very ancient hamlet, formerly connected with Pucklechurch, the hamlet of

WICK.

There was in this village, for a considerable time, a large iron foundry, with rolling mills for rolling lengths of bar and bolt iron. The mills were driven by water power from the river Boyd, which flows through the place. The iron used was waste or scrap-iron, puddled and worked together by tilt hammers. There is evidence to show that iron was manufactured in this village from mineral rock in very early ages. The place abounds in slag from some smelting furnaces, and much of the rock is impregnated with metal. As early as "Doomsday," Pucklechurch men had to provide iron as a tax on their land. According to that account, six men had to provide 90 bars of iron in that hundred. This could only be provided from Wick, where the carboniferous rocks are seen above the surface, carrying the coal and iron.

Wick, one day, gloried in having in it one or two fighting men. One at least was of a special character, and learned in the end to drop his boxing, and lead a less brutal life. He became a member of Parliament.

"His name was John Gully, and he was the son of an innkeeper in the village of Wick. In those days the fistic art was regarded as a regular science, and was openly patronised by the highest and wealthiest in the land, and almost every town or village throughout England had its 'champion,' just as we have our cricket and football champions in every county now. There always existed a fierce jealousy between Bristol and Bath as to the pre-eminence of their respective champions, and on the evening of a fair-day, in the latter town, young Gully saw his first fight. The encounter was between the Bristol champion—a giant of eighteen stone, commonly called Sixteen-String-Jack—and the home champion, known as the Flying Tinman, a young fellow of about twelve stone. In the course of twenty minutes the Flying Tinman was done for, amid the terrific shouts of the Bristol men, who carried their hero round the ring in triumph. Of course the hero made a 'bouncing' speech, which he concluded by inquiring if there were any more 'Bath Squirts' who wanted polishing off, as he was quite ready for a dozen of 'em, and would send

'em all home to their mothers in his cart. This roused young Gully. 'Father, let me have a set-to with that great brute!' he cried. 'No, no, John,' said the old man, 'suppose he should kill thee, boy; 'twould be the death of thy mother.' 'Never mind, father; I shall know when I've got enough.' And with these words the young fellow threw his hat into the ring and stripped. When the Bristol conqueror saw the comparatively fragile figure before him he cried out with a grin, 'Get the cart ready, for in ten minutes I will send this babby home to his mother a-crying.' But he forgot to keep his word. For in ten minutes the 'babby' had given him as sound a thrashing as ever man got before, and he had to be carried to his own cart amid the joyous shouts of the people, who were bearing on their shoulders the young victor in triumph. The fame of young Gully was not long in reaching London, and emissaries arrived at Wick with tempting offers to induce him to visit town and enter the prize ring. For a time all temptations were rejected in deference to the wishes of his parents. At last, however, he obtained permission to visit London, and his most brilliant achievements were in defeating the giant Gregson twice. His manly, straightforward conduct obtained for him the patronage of the highest in the land, by whom he was introduced into the racing ring. Soon he became one of the most distinguished members of Tattersalls. He bought and bred racehorses, and honestly ran them. He amassed a splendid fortune, and ultimately became member of Parliament for Pomfret. He lived to a good old age, and died sincerely regretted by all classes, from the prince to the peasant."*



CHAPTER XXVIII.

ANCIENT VILLAGES.

THE VILLAGES OF MANGOTSFIELD, DOWNEND, AND FISHPONDS.

I.—MANGOTSFIELD.

IN Domesday and other ancient records the name of this village is written "Manegodesfelle." It is derived, says Leland and others, from a Saxon general named "Mane," who gained a victory over the Britons at this place during the early settlement of the Saxons in this country.* History does not furnish us with any distinct account of this victory, or of the battle in which this general is said to have triumphed. It is possible, however, to have occurred at the same time, or, indeed, to have been one of a series of battles which is recorded as having taken place in conjunction with that at the adjoining village of Dyrham. During the year 557, or when the great battle of the latter place occurred, a large "belt" of this county (Gloucestershire) was wrenched from the British, and retained. The eastern counties having been won by other branches of the Saxon race, roused the West Saxon of the southern coast to new advance. "They captured the hill fort of Old Sarum in 552, threw open the reaches of the Wiltshire Downs, and pushing along the upper valley of Avon to a new battle at Barbury Hill, they swooped at last from their uplands on the rich prey that lay along the Severn. Gloucester, Cirencester, and Bath, cities which had leagued under their British kings to resist this onset, became the spoil of an English victory at Dyrham in 577, and the line of the great Western river lay open to the arms of the conquerors."† Chester was finally obtained, and Uriconium

* See also reason in *Ancient Manors*.

† Kemble's *Saxons in England*.

burnt. The Saxons were, however, ultimately repulsed, and for more than half a century after this the British retained possession of Chester, their possessions being then principally those of Strathclyde and Cumbria, extending from the river Clyde to the Dee; and also the smaller states which are now called Wales. Chester formed the strong link between these two bodies.

A Saxon kingdom meanwhile had been growing in power in Northumbria, and their king, Ethelfrith, a man of daring and courage, having annihilated the Britons in a great battle at Daegsastan, proceeded also to further conquest westward in their dominions. Having marched his army to Chester, he found a great crowd of monks gathered together outside the city, who had followed the British soldiers to the field, and who, it is said, were imploring the Divine Being on behalf of their own success. Watching them for some time, and observing them throwing their hands about, and making other wild gestures, the king imagined them to be enchanters, and ordered them all to be immediately slain; saying, as his soldiers rushed wildly upon them—"They war against us, when they cry against us to God!" Twelve hundred monks were thus killed—which was also immediately followed by a great battle—the overthrow of the British army, and the capture of the city of Chester. Welsh historians write angrily of this event, and call it "The Bangorian Slaughter."

The British kingdoms were thus utterly parted one from the other. By the victory at Dyrham and capture of the chief cities and villages in Gloucestershire, the West Saxons cut off the Britons of Devon and Cornwall from the general body of their race; while the victory at Chester and the reduction of Lancashire broke up the main body of the Britons most successfully, from which state of humiliation they never afterwards emerged. It might be gleaned, therefore, I think, from these great struggles, some of them occurring immediately in the neighbourhood of this village, and at the village of Dyrham close by, that it was at that time "Mane," the Saxon general, gained his victory at this place. The tradition of the villagers is that the battle was fought on Rodway Hill—a large green hill not far from the village—and that the Britons were beaten and put to

flight. The names of both places are preserved in a homely distich, sometimes used here by the old people thus, viz. :—

“By Charnocks, Mane got his field,
And shed his blood on Rodway Hill.” *

Leland, in describing this place, says that anciently there was a nunnery at Mangotsfield, and that part of the cloisters was standing in his day, *i.e.*, in the time of King Henry the Eighth. There are two manors in the parish, one of which formerly belonged to the “Blouts,” an ancient family of Bitton, whose arms were for many years on the church porch here. The church is exceedingly plain, having but few architectural pretensions, yet is neat. Its spire, through the village being situated on high ground, is seen as a conspicuous monument for many miles around. Its soft-toned bells also, from the same fact, are heard at a great distance.

The rectory and advowson anciently belonged to the monastery or priory of St. James', in Bristol—St. James' Priory being a “cell to the Abbey of Tewksbury.” At the dissolution, 1636, King Henry VIII. granted St. James' and also the lordship of Hardnoke, in Wales, for the sum of £667 7s. 6d., to a citizen and rich merchant tailor of London, by name of Henry Brayne, who in return paid to the King a small rental as Crown rights for the lands, &c., belonging thereto. It appears also, by a deed of sale, that the following churches paid H. Brayne and his heirs, in right of patronage, an annual rent or pension, formerly reserved to the monastery of Tewkesbury, viz. :—

The Rectory of St. Peter's	...	...	£1	0	0
The Rectory of Christ Church...	...	...	0	10	0
The Rectory of St. John's, for church...	...	...	0	10	0
Ditto ditto for yard	...	...	0	13	4
The Rectory of St. Ewen's and 11b. wax	...	...	0	0	6
The Rectory of St. Michael's	...	...	0	4	0
The Rectory of St. Philip's, &c.	...	...	1	6	8

* The whole story runs thus—

“By Charnocks Mane got his field,
And shed his blood on Rode-away-Hill.
They rode, some say, to Standfast Gate,
And fought their way from Bridge-o'-Yate.”

This gentleman had also the right of presentation to the vicarages of the parish churches of Mangotsfield and Stapleton; Mangotsfield paying him 1 lb. and Stapleton 2 lb. of wax yearly. Through this easy and cheap purchase from the king, which must be looked upon rather as a gift, this gentleman became possessed of great wealth—the greater part of which passed, by his two daughters, Emma Braine and Annie Braine, to G. Winter and Sir Charles Somerset, Knight. The family resided near to Dyrham, where they owned some estates, and also at Stanton and Hinton. In the church at Dyrham a beautiful monument was erected to their memory. “Under a canopy supported by pillars of the Corinthian order the cumbent figures of a man in armour supplicating; in a scutcheon, are (1) sable, a fess ermine, a crescent for difference for ‘Winter.’ Impaling 2, quarterly 1st and 4th, on a fess between 3, bugle horns, a boitling stock *or*, with a boitle gules for ‘Braine.’” *

The arms for “Winter” were for Anne, who married G. Winter as above, sister and co-heiress with Emma. Lady Emma and her husband Sir Charles were buried at St. James’, where there is a monument similar to the one above; namely, having Corinthian pillars, &c., the statue of a man in armour kneeling—wife also opposite, and daughter behind in the same attitude. The following is a copy of part of the inscription, viz. :—

My body earth, my breath was borrow'd air,
 My dated lease expired years of strife,
 My soul with stamp of God, temple of prayer,
 Dissolv'd by death mounted to glorious life.
 Life was but lent, conditional to die,
 Death made the period of mortality,
 And gave me entrance to eternity.

Sir Charles Somerset, Knight, fifth son to the Right Honourable Henry Earl of Worcester, and standard bearer unto her Majesties honourable band of gentlemen pensioners, who married Emma, &c., and who lyeth entombed with his wife here. 1590.

Several notices of men of influence and position are recorded in connection with Mangotsfield. Thomas, Lord Berkeley, the

* Barrett.

fifth of that name, who died 24th of Henry VIII., 1532, after the death of his brother's widow, resided at Yate, and was a "great housekeeper" there. He also, subsequently, resided at Mangotsfield, where he died in 1532.

Dugdale says that by his will he ordained that his body should be buried without great pomp or pride in the parish church of Mangotsfield, near to the place where *he used to kneel* under the partition between the choir and his own chapel; and within a quarter of a year after to be brought to St. Austin's, Bristol (*i.e.*, the Cathedral), and there buried near unto his first wife.

From this record we learn that the church then was very different to what it is now. Mangotsfield also furnished Bristol with a Mayor during several years, about six centuries ago. Richard was Mayor 1284-5, and also during the years 1290 and 1298.

In the year 1653, one Hugh Brown, a rich farmer of this place, gave to the Corporation of Bristol lands in Mangotsfield and Hambrook of considerable value, and also a sum of money for the poor.

James Brown also, a writer on Divinity, was born at Mangotsfield, 1616. He wrote "Scripture Redemption, freed from Man's Restrictions," and other works.

The church of Mangotsfield is dedicated to St. James, the Rev. G. Alford being the present vicar of the parish. There is also a Congregational chapel, and two good schools—National and British.

A large house, called Mangotsfield House, of considerable pretensions, where for many years resided the esteemed family of Mr. J. P. Peterson, is a well-built and conspicuous house in the village. It is now occupied by the vicar.

There is another ancient house, called Hill House, formerly the residence of Mr. H. Hawthorn, and later by Mr. J. Bailly, but now, I think, unoccupied. Perhaps, however, the fine old house, called Rodway Hill House, built in the Elizabethan style, on Rodway Hill, is the oldest house in the place. This fine old mansion, beautifully situated in its quiet retreat, appears to have been standing for many centuries. From its elevated position

and southern aspect, and also from the shelter afforded by the numerous trees on its Northern side, it cannot fail to be a charming residence—

Where all around the gentlest breezes stray,
And gentle music melts on every spray.

Some early sketches of the parish show this house to have been a substantial one in the year 1600. There is a very handsome staircase of the Tudor period; and the Boleyn arms over the principal door are said to be here. The house has been occupied for some years by Mr. H. Young.

South of Rodway, and over the hill near to where the railway station now is, there was formerly a large lake or pond, called "Mangotsfield Fishpond," to which was attached a mill, called also "Mangotsfield Mill." Near to the latter were some works, known as "Colson's Tinnings," *i.e.*, tin works. These were, however, spelter works, like those described as at Warmley Towers. There are several hamlets near to the village, where are many interesting old farm-houses, as at Lyde Green, where is a farm-house of great age—also another called "Hallen Farm"; at Pomphrey also, near to Shortwood, are others. Similar old places of interest are found near the "Common" and at "Viney Green." The houses in the village itself are neat, and make together chiefly one principal street—the "Salutation" and "Crown," prominent houses, being the conspicuous "inns." It should be noticed also that a part of Mangotsfield Park, a large tract of land so called, having a commodious modern house upon it, has recently been bought by the "Land Company," and great portions of it cut up in allotments and sold for building purposes.

We must now leave Mangotsfield and for some distance keep to the Bristol road, till we come to the end of Hill House grounds, where the Forest boundary anciently turned sharp round northward, now marked, I believe, by a lane that goes in that direction opposite to the "Hill House," and within the Forest; a little south of the high road here, there formerly stood an ancient oak, known as the "Staple Hill Oak." This is the spot which was first designated "STAPLE HILL," and the oak in all probability was kept to mark its site, but for what purpose

I cannot ascertain. It is curious to notice how rapidly a considerable village has sprung up near to this spot and bearing the above name. Some large shops, and several well-built semi-detached villas, a commodious chapel, belonging to the Free Methodists, together with the substantial house occupied by Mr. T. Tanner, and also the house of Mr. Lorry, have all recently been erected. There are indications, indeed, that within a few years Staple Hill will grow into a large town. Formerly there were coal works at this place called "Shepherd's coal works."

Proceeding on our way northward from Staple Hill, and remembering that the line of the Forest is on our right hand all the way, we arrive at .

II.—DOWNEND,

Our next village, a place of pleasing interest, and having an exceedingly neat and healthy appearance. Of the origin of the name "Downend," there is some obscurity. It has been variously written, "Downend," "Dowend," and "Downing." The latter is, in all probability, the original. Formerly, a retired officer of the army of considerable influence, by the name of "Downing," resided for some time in this place, his house being then almost the only one of importance standing. It is possible the few cottagers who were then scattered about here used his name as an appellative. Hence the quarries, of which there were several in the neighbourhood, were often spoken of as "Dowing's Quarries;" and hence also now, we sometimes hear persons say, "Downing's Church," "Downing's Common," &c. Downend was formerly part of Mangotsfield parish, but now is a parish of itself.

The church, an exceedingly nice building, is dedicated to the Saviour—Christ's Church, as all churches should be. The Rev. John Walter Dann is the incumbent, for whose comfort a new parsonage is now being erected.

Recently, also, for the use of both parishes, *i.e.*, Mangotsfield and Downend, a new cemetery has been opened. Near to the cemetery is the beautiful mansion lately occupied by the Rev. Alfred Peach, vicar of the parish.

Passing through this village towards Sodbury we reach the

extreme northern boundary of Kingswood, old Sodbury Gate entrance being one of the ancient highways into the Forest on that side. A very ancient house stands on the left, a little west of the Old Sodbury Gate called "Moorend House," formerly the residence of Mr. Player. A little to the left of Moorend House is Cleeve Hill, formerly called Brimley Heath, where also was Brimley Gate. Here is Cleeve Hill House, the mansion of the Right Hon. Stephen Cave, M.P., where

The most daintie paradise on ground
Itself doth offer to his sober eye,
In which all pleasures plenteously abound,
And none doth others happinesse envye;
The painted flowers; the trees upshooting hye;
The dales for shade; the hilles for breathing space;
The trembling groves; the christall running by;
And that which all faire works doth most aggrace.*

From this house our way lies almost opposite to that which we have hitherto followed, taking us south, or south-westerly, past the spot where the "Lincombe Pools," or ponds, formerly were, on to the high road to Fishponds.

The margin of Kingswood Forest from this place is almost a direct line to Stapleton Bridge. We cannot leave Downend, however, without remembering that this village has been made famous of late years by its having been for so long a time the dwelling-place of the great cricketers—the "Graces." Probably no other family in England has done so much to stimulate healthy and outdoor exercises by innocent pastime as this very worthy family. In most of our large cities and towns, but especially so in London, the name of "Grace" has become a household word. It is curious also that their practice as medical men, notwithstanding the time taken up in their pastime, has not deteriorated nor diminished—the father and the sons having always had the lion's share in that profession. The popularity of cricket owes its existence to the persistent and indomitable perseverance of this remarkable family; for the game of cricket, now so universal, was never known earlier as a national game,

* E. Spenser, "The Bower of Bliss."

and elsewhere hardly understood, till the advent of Dr. Grace and his stalwart sons established its practice in the West of England. It is now the established national pastime of all England. The present champion of cricket, Dr. W. G. Grace, was born in this village (Downend), in July, 1848. With his brothers and father he might often have been seen, at a very early age, playing at their favourite recreation in the village. His mother was a daughter of one of the renowned Pocock family—a household word, and never mentioned but with pleasure fifty years ago. The Pococks kept private boarding schools at St. George and Clifton for the education of young gentlemen. One of their annual summer amusements, to please the boys, was to make excursions along the high roads in four-wheel brakes drawn by immense canvas kites. These kites were made of sail-cloth, as large as the main-sail of a ship—fifteen to twenty feet in diameter. They were let up by a stout rope, and attached to the brake. In this manner twenty boys were sometimes drawn in the brakes four or five miles through Kingswood.

The doctor has somewhat a brusque manner about him, which, perhaps, sits well on his burly form. He can, however, be exceedingly tender and polite, especially to his lady patients; but, like his father, when it suited his purpose, he can hit you hard with his words—no doubt a trait of character which he inherits from his sire.

Some years ago, we remember a young man dying of typhoid fever; the father and son both attended the lad. The son, then a young man, had prescribed, and on a morning following the father was to call and see his patient. He did so, and found the lad worse. He quickly examined the medicine bottle, and turning red with rage, he stamped his foot, saying, "D—the stupid fool!" and sent the bottle spinning through the window. The son had made a mistake.

The writer was reminded of this trait of character in the present renowned cricketer only a few months ago, when a sick man went to see him for advice. "You are like an old broken down cab-horse," said the doctor, "and want whipping up!" The poor man took it hardly; but when reminded by some one that the whip was only a bottle or two of bitters, he was all right.

The great cricketer is forty-three years of age, and has retained his game for thirty years.

He made his *debut* on July 9th, 1857, on Rodway Hill, Mangotsfield, for the West Gloucestershire Club against Bedminster, and his first big score was 51 for the same club against Clifton, when not twelve years old. On July 21st, 1864, he made his first appearance at Lord's for South Wales against M.C.C. and G. When not yet seventeen he was chosen to represent the Gentlemen against the Players both at Lord's and the Oval. About a year afterwards he was credited with the extraordinary score of 224 (not out) for England, against Surrey at Kennington. He followed up this performance a few weeks later by carrying out his bat for 173, which splendid total was compiled without a chance. During 1871 his figures showed the unprecedented aggregate of 2,739 runs in first-class matches, or an average of 78. In 1873 he captained the third English team which visited Australia, and he signalled his return to England with a score of 280 in the first match he played after his arrival. In 1874, in his eleven innings of three figures, in England, he scored 1,632 runs. In 1876, amongst other great performances, he put together 344 for M.C.C. v. Kent, and 318 (not out) for Gloucestershire, against Yorkshire. His most wonderful score against the Australians was that of 152 for England, at the Oval, in 1880. The year of 1885 was one of Mr. Grace's most successful—the Champion scoring once over 200, and five times over the 100. The following year (1886) he played as brilliantly as ever, and, in bowling, too, he was again credited with over 100 wickets. On August 13th, for England v. Australia, he scored 170. He furnished a unique performance on June 22nd, at Oxford, scoring 104 for M.C.C. v. The University, and in the second innings took all 10 wickets in 36 overs for 49 runs.

"For a player on the verge of the forties," said *Cricket*, of July 7th, 1887, "his four innings of last week can only be described as extraordinary." These innings were as follow :

M.C.C. and G. v. Cambridge Univ.	31...116—147
Gloucestershire v. Yorkshire	92...183—275

During 1888 and 1889 Mr. Grace fully maintained his enviable

position, his best scores in the former being 165 for Gentlemen of England *v.* Australians, 73 for M.C.C. and G. *v.* Sussex, 59 (in the first innings) *v.* Notts, and 148 *v.* Yorkshire, at Clifton, on August 16th. In 1890 he was seen to the most advantage against Middlesex, off their bowling making 101, and in the return 127 (not out). Last season also, for a man of his years and weight, the Champion played splendid cricket, scoring more runs than anyone else, save Shrewsbury and Gunn. The following will best show his record for 1890:

Inns.	Runs.	Highest Inns.	Aver.
55	1479	109	18.38

This 109 was for Gloucester *v.* Kent, and W. G. carried his bat right through the innings. His other best efforts were 75 (not out) for England *v.* Australia, 50 for Gloucester *v.* Sussex, 94 and 90 *v.* Lancashire, 98 *v.* Yorkshire, 57 *v.* Middlesex, 70 (not out) *v.* Notts, 64 for Lord Laverton's XI. *v.* Australians, and 84 for South *v.* Australians. His latest achievement is, as everyone knows, his great book on the game. We may add that he entered the Royal College of Surgeons in 1878, and practices now in Bristol. This year the veteran champion has played several fine innings, showed superb captainship, and bowled already—as witness the Surrey *v.* Gloucestershire match—in a way worthy of his best days.

When Mr. W. G. Grace went to Canada and America in 1872, with Mr. Fitzgerald's team, one of the Canadian newspapers said that he must be known by sight to more people in England than Mr. Gladstone. The papers were full of Grace. The spectators always showed great delight when he was given "not out," and in one match we remember reading that there was a deputation of ladies asking Mr. Grace not to go in before luncheon, and he obliged them. At Philadelphia, where England won an exciting match, cheers were given for Gloucestershire, Grace, and the British flag.

Hero worship of Grace, it would seem, is not extinct even in these islands. Recently the "Unapproachable" was practising in the suburbs of Glasgow, where he had taken a team. The bat he was using splintered, and pieces flew in all directions. Members of a junior team gathered up the fragments. Coins to

the value of 2s. were offered for the chips of the bat, but all offers were declined. At this rate Mr. Grace might dispose of some of his old bats to help the charities of Scotland.*

III.—FISHPONDS.

Fishponds is, comparatively, a modern village. It takes its name from some ponds which were formerly near the railway station.

Formerly it consisted of only a few huts or small cottages built near to some stone quarries, and inhabited by the "quarrymen" who were employed in that business. Fishponds has grown into a large and important neighbourhood.

A small brook takes its rise on the Western slope of Lodge Hill, at the head of a valley that runs on and deepens until it gets to Dog's Kennel, on the river From. Across this valley formerly two dams were thrown, forming it into a lake, or rather two sheets of water, near the old rabbit burrow. The main road, near the "Full Moon Hotel," passed between these two ponds. Dr. George Bompas partly filled up the upper pond; and it is now drained, and forms part of the grounds of Mr. A. Robinson. The lower pond also was filled up by order of the Duchess of Beaufort after a child had fallen in it and was drowned. From these "ponds" Fishponds is generally believed to have received its name. There are others, however, who affirm that before any dams were constructed on the small stream above, considerable quantities of stone had been quarried in this place for building and other purposes during several centuries, which resulted in forming large open spaces or holes—convenient receptacles for surface drainage; these spaces afterwards filling with water, appeared as large lakes or ponds, and were formerly called the "new pools," and later the "fishing ponds." This is the name found on all the ancient maps, and I have no doubt but that this was the origin of the name. The name is now applied not to a particular or definite spot, but to a large area, including within its area a number of other names of equally interesting, if not of greater significance.

* *Kingswood and District Times.*

We, therefore, resume our perambulations at the extreme end, near to Downend, where we last halted, and where it is said the neighbourhood of Fishponds begins. The first house of importance at this point is "Overn Hill House," for many years the residence of Miss Cox, but now of Dr. Skelton, a gentleman of growing reputation. Near to this was formerly a respectable school for young gentlemen, conducted by Mr. A. Curtiss. Beyond these to the left, towards Frenchay, is a good substantial house, late in the occupation of Mr. John Croome; now, I believe, of Mr. Emmet. The neighbourhood in this place is exceedingly pretty, most suitable for persons of retiring habits, or invalids. Following the road which leads us through the village, we pass the nursery (Garaway's) on the left, and Overdale House—a compact abode—on the right. The latter is the residence of Mrs. Pollock, a relative of Baron Pollock.

Turning again to the left, and on to the Staple Hill road, we pass a large building, formerly one of the many "grist mills" which abounded in this part of the country; it is now converted into a shoe factory.

The old rabbit burrow, and a large tract of land belonging to the esteemed "Bompasses" family, bring us to an imposing-looking building—the new Baptist Chapel. Built in the Gothic style, cruciform, and having the unusual appendage to a Baptist chapel, a "bell turret." Certainly this is a proof that a taste for art, if no more, is reviving, even in the country, and is an evidence, I think, that the "dips" are intending to give more light in the future than they have hitherto been accustomed to do in the past. We next reach the "Cross Hands Inn," where the two roads meet, and form a junction. Proceeding hence in a straight line, beneath the shade of a row of lofty elms, we see on our right the new Training College—a college intended for the training of schoolmistresses for the National Church. Near to this place, and within its own grounds and shrubbery formerly stood a large and commodious house known as "Fishponds Lunatic Asylum," carried on for so many years under the kind care of the late Dr. Bompas. It is recorded that in the year 1746, the Town Clerk of Bristol, Mr. William Cann, and also his own clerk, and another—an under clerk—all went

mad in the same week. Two of them were lodged in the above asylum, the other cut his throat. The asylum has now entirely disappeared, having been pulled down and all cleared away. Upon the site, however, have arisen many fashionable villas and new shops, giving the place quite a new and improved appearance. Not far from the latter place, and a little to the right we pass the Church and National Schools.

Near to the church is an old house, consisting of a school-room, a master's house (both empty), and an alms-house for four old women. A plot of ground also near, called the Common, being the play-ground of the above, and what was anciently the "Free School" of the village. The father of Hannah More was the schoolmaster of the village here, at the time of the birth of his daughter, Hannah, and lived in the old house now closed. The endowment goes to help support the National School of the village.

In the same direction, also, we come upon the residence of Mr. John Yalland, the "great contractor," of local reputation. Beyond this again is the house of one of the esteemed and highly-educated family of the Monks—Mr. John Monks. The most interesting building, however, near to this place is that of the "Old French Prison," so called from its having been built and used during the war with France. So many hundreds of prisoners were confined in this place on one occasion that, it is said, during the hot summer weather, the prisoners "poked" nearly all the tiles off the roof in order to get fresh air. The prisoners were allowed to make toys and other articles, a market being held in the week, in the court of the prison, for the sale of such things. Many of the prisoners were of the best class and highly skilled of the artisans. Some of the old people in the neighbourhood were lately in possession of curious articles, beautifully worked in bone, purchased in the market. This building is now used as the Bristol Union Workhouse.

Not far from the Union is another old and historical house—"Oldbury Court," formerly the residence of Mr. Oliver Bigg; now of Mr. Vassall. This once fine old dwelling was standing in the year 1600, and is correctly marked on an old map of Stapleton of that date. The house of the benevolent Mr. T.

Proctor is also near. This gentleman recently very kindly gave a large piece of land as a recreation ground for the use of the inhabitants. Here also resides Mr. Alfred Robinson, one of the firm of Messrs. E. S. and A. Robinson, the enterprising wholesale stationers of Redcliffe Street, Bristol; a gentleman worthy of the large share of the business he commands, and whose dwelling-house and warehouse may justly be described as models.

The centre of Fishponds is rapidly changing its former appearance. Its proximity to Bristol and the railway accommodation has very visibly aroused the latent energies of this place into activity, the effects of which are seen in all directions.

The old Full Moon Inn quiesces in the Full Moon Hotel. A new police station has also arisen, guarded right and left by still newer and large shops. Then there are the Wesleyan and Free Methodist Churches, both of which are costly buildings. The latter church is not yet finished. It is a commodious building in the Gothic style, with a clock in front. Altogether, with its many signs of activity, we should say that Fishponds is determined to "keep pace with the times."

We now take leave of this growing place and proceed on our way to the next village. We do not proceed far before we reach the "Causeway"—an old road that anciently cut the Forest of Kingswood in a straight line, passing the Kingswood Lodge on the top of the hill. This road was formerly considered a very lonely way, and few persons apparently used it. This must not be confounded with the London road, or the Old Causeway. Very recently the Provincial Land Company have been letting land here in allotments for building purposes, and, as a consequence, there are now a large number of semi-detached villas and other houses built upon it forming a rising and most populous district. This is called the Mayfield and the Chester Parks.

We next pass a long row of houses, well-built villas and others, and reach Ridgway House, another very ancient house, and which is mentioned in the perambulations made of Kingswood Forest in 1652, or during the Commonwealth. It has been variously used, sometimes as a school, sometimes as a private residence, and once as a lunatic asylum. In our way to

this place we should have noticed that the ancient boundary of the Forest was a little behind the high road, on our right hand, all the way from Fishponds.

Below Ridgway House is erected a new parish church, and forming with it the new parish called

EASTVILLE.

Here the road is very picturesque, especially past the new Cemetery—"Greenbank." Passing onwards to the "Roe-Yate," we reach the extreme boundary of Kingswood Forest on its north-western side. Here the margin turned sharp round to the south and proceeded in a straight line, extending almost to "Don John's Cross" on the London road. "Roe-Yate" was the ancient entrance to the Forest in this its most north-western corner; its whereabouts would be found now in the bend of the road a little below Ridgway House. This place would afford an agreeable pass into the Forest to those "foresters" who are described as having resided sometime at Stapleton—then a little village beyond. From the "Roe-Yate" to this village there intervened a considerable piece of land of a lovely green, and then profusely dotted with bushes and shrubs, which greatly contributed to the beauty of the place. It was part of this piece of land which it was proposed sometime ago should be set apart for "the People's Park."

Stapleton formerly was a very small village, consisting only of a few scattered houses. It is now an agreeable suburb. In its very early days it is noticed as being very picturesque, the neighbourhood abounding with natural attractions. The village has been especially described as being beautifully situated, within a most agreeable and easy retreat; away from the dust and noise of the city, under the shade of trees, where the little river bends gracefully around a spot as though it would embrace it; charming it also with the "click" of its numerous "mylles" and the murmur of its soft sweet waters, while the song of the birds of the forest and the gambols of the game straying occasionally beyond the narrow stream made it altogether a village of most agreeable attractions, and a neighbourhood almost unequalled for persons of retiring habits.

The brook, or, as it is now called, the river (Froom) had during many centuries a number of water mills upon it for the purpose of grinding corn. Of these the "Lathburie Myll" and "Curty's Myll" lay nearest the village; while beyond these northward were several others. "Snigg's Mylls" were the most northern, and "Baptist's Mills" the most western on the river. Stapleton and Manor formerly belonged to Richard Berkeley, of Stoke Gifford. He is thought by some to be a descendant of Sir Thomas Berkeley, the third of that name, of Berkeley Castle. This was the Sir Thomas who was accused of the murder of King Edward II. in the above castle. It was proved, it is said, according to Stow and others, that he was not at Berkeley at the time, and therefore could not have known anything about it. Sir Richard Berkeley was buried at St. Mark's, *i.e.*, the Mayor's Chapel, in Bristol, where is a handsome monument erected to his memory. There is also a monument erected to Sir Thomas Berkeley. Over Sir Richard's is a shield containing the arms of the Berkeleys, of Stoke; and in a table, over a statue in armour at full length, the following epitaph, viz. :—

Domini Richardi Berklaci,
militis in suam mortem, carmen monitorium, &c.
Whom youth could not corrupt, nor change of days
Add anything but years; he full of them
As they of knowledge; what need this stone praise
Whose epitaph is writ in the hearts of men;
That did this world and her child fame despise,
His soul's with God, lo! here his coffin lies.

Obitt. Aprilis 26, A.D. 1604. Ætatis svae 71.

Also in the chancel is a large, finely ornamented and carved tomb, and on it, within an arch, the stone figures of Sir Thomas de Berkeley and Catherine, his lady, daughter of John, Lord Bottertourte. There are two shields over them, one has the Berkeley arms of Stoke quartered with Bottertourte, which are or, a cross engrailed sable; the other shield is paly of six or, and azure for Gourney.*

* R., *His. Bristol*, p. 350.

Stapleton afterwards came to John Berkeley, who also possessed a large "liberty" in Kingswood Forest amounting to 700 acres. In this liberty were those coal-pits situated which were sunk in the high ground at Kingswood, near to the lodge called "Kingswood Lodge."

The impropriation of the chapel, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, belonged, like Mangotsfield, to the church of St. James; the parishioners also, prior to the year 1438, were buried in St. James's churchyard. In the same year (1438) the Abbot of Tewkesbury granted them license to bury their dead at Stapleton, providing the parishioners came to hear mass at St. James's regularly, and paid 2 lbs. of wax for the privilege for ever.

Several of the foresters of Kingswood resided at Stapleton. Amongst them was one Roger de Gossington, who, it appears, was owner of considerable lands in the neighbourhood.*

There are other places noteworthy and of much interest at Stapleton, but enough, I think, has been said compatible with our first intention when we set out on our journey round the Forest. We therefore return to the Fishponds road, and a short walk brings us quickly to the spot in Barton whence we started. It will be seen thus, by those who have followed the narrative, that twelve or thirteen villages and hamlets are situated very nearly on what was anciently described as the boundary of the Forest, while six of the villages in their historic associations carry us back to Saxon times, and were, doubtless, places of much greater importance than they are now.



* Rudder.

CHAPTER XXIX.

ANCIENT PLACES.

I.—KINGSWOOD LODGE.

THE principal houses early noticed were those of "Kingswood" and "Fora" Lodges; the former, an exceedingly old house on the top of the hill, is sometimes called "King John's Hunting Lodge," from a tradition that it was originally owned and built by him for his use and convenience while he should be thus engaged in that sport. Of this story there is no proof. Nevertheless, it appears to have been standing nearly 300 years ago. It will be remembered that in a former chapter I gave an account of some "law proceedings" instituted by one "Fitzgerald" in the reign of James the First. Previous to that time (1610), some drawings had been given of the Forest, and were then extant, which were thought to be inaccurate. Accordingly an elaborate map was produced a few months after the above trial, purporting to give the correct positions; or, "Correctinge the Newe placinge" of the "Lodge" and other places in the Forest. Kingswood Lodge is twice marked on this map, one of the sketches being scratched over with the pen, showing that it had been wrongly placed, while the other indicates the position where the Lodge now stands.* The house appears to have consisted of two or three blocks, one of which was built higher than the others in the form of a square tower. With this exception it does not appear to be marked by any special features. There are reasons, however, to believe that it was built for some special purpose otherwise than as a mere lodge. It is situated exactly in the centre, and upon a spot of ground higher than any other in the Forest. With its high tower it

* Copies in Author's hands.

could command views in a complete circle, including nearly all the villages I have named. Pucklechurch and Bristol, and also the Somersetshire hills, would be so distinctly seen and appear so near as to be almost within speaking distance. Possibly, and originally therefore, it may have been designed as some place of "outlook"; certainly, for far other purposes than that as a mere hunting box; and has existed from the very earliest times.

Kingswood Lodge was the residence for many years of the great coal-pit owners—the Brains; William and John Brain being the late owners, now of the Forest of Dean. The Lodge came to be called therefore Brain's Lodge, and is best known by that name at the present time. This family were some of the original owners of the coal-works in Kingswood. In the year 1750 ten coal-pits were owned by Charles Brain. The Brains, anciently written Brayne, came into the county originally from London, and were descendants from the brothers of Henry Brayne to whom Queen Catherine and Henry VIII. granted for "considerations" possessions in this place. The present proprietor of the Golden Valley Coal Works, also Annie Braine (late wife of Mr. Edgecombe Lavers, of Bristol), are also descendants. Kingswood Lodge is now in ruins.

II.—FORA LODGE.

"Fora Lodge"—a contraction, I suppose, for "Forest Lodge"—was another old house, but standing near the London Road. Whether this house, or any part of it, is now standing, altered, or absorbed into some modern house, I cannot say. Its site would be near the old pin factory. There are but few other places apparently in Kingswood of antiquarian interest. An old house formerly stood on the eastern side of Soundwell Lane, where Richmond Buildings now stand, which appears to have been the only house on this part of the hill in 1610. On the opposite side of the same lane also was an ancient cross, called the "Old Oak Cross." Soundwell Lane or path crossed the high road at this place and proceeded southward towards Hanham. A little past the present Wesleyan Chapel was another old cross, called the "Golden Cross Keye." Here a small stream trickled

down the hill from some spring—the beginning really of Strode or Stradbrook, at Hanham. The spring possibly gave rise to the word “Keye” above. Strode brook was indicated by a dense mass of trees and high banks on both sides all the way to Hanham. On the northern side Soundwell Lane was further indicated by Welchne’s Cross, already spoken of, Garrot’s Mead, Trinity Oak, and Staple Hill Oak, northward.

III.—THE OLD ROUND HOUSE.

An old Tower, called the “Round House,” or Round Tower, stood for many years, empty and disused, near the Kingswood Lodge, and was a conspicuous ornament on the hill. It was formerly a large Windmill, and had been used for grinding corn. But whether it was originally constructed for that purpose has been disputed. The walls are said to be too massive, and the style altogether different to that usually observed in “grist mills.” Moreover, at the time of its erection, there could not have been any corn grown near it in the Forest; while, at the same time, numerous coal-works were springing into existence, and at the same spot, which would make it a most undesirable place to build a corn-mill. Yet there are obvious reasons for believing that the tower was constructed for a wind-machine of very exceptional strength, and for some definite object. What, then, was its purpose? The probable answer, and probable history is this:—it was constructed for similar purposes as the one which stood at Warmley Towers—a wind-motor for driving machinery. What the machinery was for, the exceptional strength of the tower, and its prominence at this spot, may be gleaned from the following circumstances. First, it was built near the Government official mark, “the Broad Arrow Head”; next, immediately in the midst of the numerous coal-pits and timber district of the Forest, near the King’s lodge; afterwards its use, for the repair of cages—carts, for lifting coals, and other iron implements used in the coal works, hence becoming known as “the Broad Arrow Shop.” These significant marks indicate and point it out as, at first, connected with the Government in some specific object, which seems to be iron-works. If we add to this, certain pro-

ceedings which had taken place when Oliver Cromwell divided the Forest amongst his favourites, a reason for the erection of this old Round Tower will be found. In other words, its associations point it out, not only as the site, but as the very ruins of Captain Copley's works, where "he failed to make his bellows to blow," in his attempt to smelt iron with pit-coal in Kingswood; as I have shown in the time of Cromwell. The tower was built, in all probability, for the purpose of driving "a wind engine" within and at the base of the tower; perhaps of the simple kind now known as the "Blow Georgie," and intended to do the work for which the steam blast engine is now used, that is, the keeping up a continuous current of air called "blast" in the blast furnace.

The present proprietor of the building, Mr. Craymer, has had a very handsome house erected near, the tower being an adjunct. The house and tower being both embattled, from their elevated position on the hill, give the whole a very noble and castle-like appearance. It was my privilege to see and note the following objects of interest in this mansion. In the basement of the tower there is a circular room, 18 feet in diameter; walls 4 feet thick. The tower is 55 feet high. The mantel-piece of the drawing-room and cornice of hall are made of carved oak, taken from the Bristol Cathedral during its restoration. The centre-piece of the mantel is from the Duke of Marlborough's house, contains coat of arms, &c.; it was purchased from Mr. Munro, Bristol. The top part is the old pulpit front of the Cathedral. There is an ancient chest from Fontel Abbey. An immense oak table and chair, very handsomely carved, taken from Bitton Church. Sideboard of carved oak, with pillars—the ancient communion rails from Old Sodbury Church. A handsome oak bedstead on which Queen Elizabeth slept at the "Fourteen Stars," Counterslip. A little cot, child's, five hundred years old, &c. The house looks like a miniature Windsor Castle.

CHAPTER XXX.

OLD PLACES OF WORSHIP.

I.—HANHAM BAPTIST.

THE Baptists were the first religious denomination who sent missionaries and evangelists to Kingswood, 1658, and built the first meeting-house at Hanham, 1714. For many years it was supplied with preachers from Pithay Chapel and Broadmead. They began their more earnest work about the year 1680, and suffered much persecution; the Rev. George Fownes died in Gloucester gaol, 1660, imprisoned for preaching in Kingswood.

Whether there were any other places of worship, or religious houses of any kind, older than the above in this neighbourhood there is no evidence to show. It is said an ancient religious house formerly stood in Fishponds, but there is no mark on any ancient map, nor yet any notice taken of it in any of the old "official visits" made during the years 1532, 1560, 1583, 1623, 1682-3, when such official visits were made.* It is to be observed also that some of the old maps are minutely accurate, every cottage, where such existed, and every "mear stone," or other marks, being distinctly noted.

The Moravians followed next in their work, 1670, and afterwards built a small chapel. In conjunction with the Rev. Geo. Whitefield, Mr. John Cennick, of Reading, came to Kingswood, and preached in the house of Mr. Tippet, and afterwards built a chapel on the site in connexion with the brothers, Revs. John and Charles Wesley. He afterwards separated from them, 1744, and joined the Moravian Brethren, who still hold their own on the hill. Mr. Cennick composed a volume of very beautiful hymns, which are still very popular.

* Brit. Museum. Delaney's Heraldry, Eng. 165.

II.—THE OLD TABERNACLE.

The old Tabernacle at Kingswood was built in this manner:—Whitefield having introduced Wesley to his friends at Bristol, then left, and “his journey,” says Southey, “lay through Kingswood; and there the colliers, without his consent or knowledge, had prepared an entertainment for him. Having been informed that they were willing to subscribe towards building a charity school for their children, he had preached to them on the subject, and he says it was surprising to see with what cheerfulness they parted with their money on that occasion, all willing to assist, either by their money or their labour, and now at this farewell visit, they earnestly entreated that he would lay the first stone. The request was somewhat premature, for it was not yet certain whether the site which they desired would be granted to them. A person, however, was present who declared he would give a piece of ground in case the lord of the manor should refuse, and Whitefield then laid a stone; after which he knelt and prayed to God that the gates of hell might not prevail against it, the colliers saying a hearty Amen.”

With the assistance of friends in Bristol, Whitefield followed up his work by building a chapel in Kingswood, 1739. This place is still standing, and is designated the “Old Tabernacle.” It is now used as a day school, another and more handsome structure, having been built by its side, called also “The Whitefield Tabernacle.” The old Tabernacle was the first place of worship erected in Kingswood, and by Kingswood we mean not the village merely of the hill as now understood, but the whole area which formerly was known as the Forest. The chapel is a large, plain building, square with the usual lean-to roof; four stout pillars support the ceiling and the galleries, one of the latter being continued over the chapel wall and a school on the west side. This was done at a later period to accommodate the Sunday school. Whitefield’s chapels were all built very much alike, exceedingly simple and plain, without any attempts at architectural beauty or ornament, but were well-adapted for hearing. Hence at later periods endeavours have been made to modify and ornament them in order to preserve them, but this

appears to be a very difficult matter, and in most cases it is ultimately abandoned, and a new building erected instead. Many attempts were made to improve the old "Tabernacle" of Kingswood—the pillars were marbled, the pulpit ornamented with polished pillars for lights, scarlet curtains hung at the south windows, and the pews were topped with polished mahogany. These additions, however, failed to satisfy the growing taste of the worshippers, and a new handsome Gothic building was erected, and now stands here as a conspicuous witness to this advance in taste and good sense.

III.—THE OLD SCHOOL.

The next place of worship, built in 1748, is known by the above name—The Old School. It was built by the Rev. John Wesley; also a school about the same time from which it takes its name. On two stones are recorded:—

ILANC SCHOLAM CONDITAM, DEDICAVIT
REV. JOHANNES WESLEY, A.M., JUNII 28, 1748.
IN GLORIAM DOM, OPISSIMI MAXIMI
IN USUM ECCLESIÆ & REIPUBLICÆ.

The buildings were enlarged in 1832, as appears by this inscription on another tablet:

WESLEIADARUM FILIS
DOCTRINA LIBERALI
COMMODIUS INSTITUENDIS
PS. 68. II. A.D. 1832.

It stands about half a mile south of the London Road. A large school is built by its side, established by Wesley for the education of ministers' sons belonging to the Methodists. Hence the name of "The Old School," as applied to it. This was the school originally founded and known for so many years as "The Kingswood School." Both chapel and school are now used as a reformatory, a new school having been built near Bath, which is designated "New Kingswood." The chapel was a similar building to the old Tabernacle above, but smaller. The school is a large house, plain, and of several storeys, with numerous rooms as dormitories for the use of boys.

Why the Wesleyan body, after having been so successful in this place for so many years, should have shifted off all their educational machinery to the neighbourhood of Bath one cannot understand. Certainly they have grown very much richer than they formerly were, and may have needed a more elegant school to meet the advanced taste of the age. But people who grow rich do not always grow wise, and there are not wanting indications, I think, in their movements in this respect, to believe otherwise than that they have acted somewhat, if not altogether, unwisely in this matter. Whitefield and Wesley both planted their churches in the darkest corners of the land. Their object was to Christianise and elevate the "benighted" masses. Hence, whatever means would tend towards this end was adopted. For this purpose, the foresight of Wesley is clearly seen in placing a school of this kind in Kingswood. Its effect would be twofold—the sons of ministers would become early acquainted with the deep degradation and misery to which men could sink—the picture was before them; whilst the school's opposite effect for good would be powerfully and continually felt.

Indeed, this was afterwards greatly experienced. The neat and orderly appearance of the boys had a marvellous effect on the rough collier lads and their parents. The contrast which education and religion made preached far more powerful sermons than many ministers could have done, and induced a decent respect to what was said where all other means would have failed. The school thus became an institution so highly esteemed by the people in the neighbourhood that its removal was looked upon as a sad loss, and not a few persons, especially the poor, were deeply grieved about it. "Could not a site be found in all Kingswood?" said a native one day, adding also the following remark:—"It is sometimes sneeringly said—of course there is no truth in it—of this great and growing body that for a 'certain sin' they are frequently guilty, although the sin of 'begging' is now punished by common law." If this be true, then the old adage "that all beggars go to Bath" receives another verification in the above event; and the spot near Bath may be exquisitely chosen to train the young ministry in the higher branches of that art.

A beautiful Wesleyan Chapel was also built in place of the "old school" or chapel, when the latter was closed. Nor was the old chapel closed with less sadness than the school. When the last sermon was announced it was filled with nearly all old men and women, with white snowy heads, who in earlier days had sought its benefits and were then reaping its fruits. The scene was one peculiarly impressive. The old people shed tears like children, and, with tremulous voices and wet faces, sang old hymns with such deep pathos and feeling seldom witnessed, and which, indeed, can only be thus witnessed among assemblies of persons of similar age and infirmities.

The Whitefield's and Wesley's old Meeting-houses were followed next in order by the erection of St. George's Church, so recently rebuilt, and already noticed under the account of Villages. This was followed by the erection of

KINGSWOOD CHURCH.

In 1818, the liberality of Parliament voted one million of money for church building purposes, 58th Geo. III., and a society was formed in London to assist in particular cases the building of churches. The Bishop of Gloucester (Bishop Ryder) turned his attention to the state of Kingswood. A subscription was set on foot; the Commission immediately voted £2,143, and the Society in London £700. A site was given on the hill—within sight and not far from the Wesleyan and Whitefield buildings, and the Moravians. Furnished with these means the first stone was laid by the Bishop of Gloucester, June the 9th, 1819. A difficulty occurred afterwards, and the building delayed for twelve months. It was afterwards completed, and was the first of the Million Fund Churches consecrated. It was consecrated and dedicated to the Holy Trinity, Tuesday, 11th of September, 1821. On the same day the ecclesiastical district was perambulated, and the line of demarcation of the parish pointed out by his Lordship, which should belong to the New Church, and be designated Holy Trinity Parish. The church is calculated to hold one thousand persons, but it is supposed twice that number were present, and many had to go away unable to gain admission. Curiously, the Cockroad children, who had previously

been trained to sing, were invited with some others to be the leading singers of the day. Surely, it was reiterated that day, "Can any good come out of Nazareth?"

The same year, on the 31st of August, 1821, was consecrated the church of

ST. MARY'S,

Fishponds. This was an additional church, capable of accommodating eight hundred people. It was consecrated by Bishop Kaye, of Bristol. Fishponds Church was built by a grant from the Church Building Society, added to a voluntary contribution, and a handsome legacy left some years since by a late incumbent of that parish. The present incumbent is the Rev. W. S. MacKean.

Nine years after this, Christ Church, Downend, was opened, 28th October, 1831; and subsequently many others, which bring into view modern places of worship.



CHAPTER XXXI.

THE COLLIERS.

THE following notices of the persecutions of the Baptists will give us some idea of the state of people anterior to the times of Whitefield and Wesley.

PERSECUTIONS OF BAPTISTS IN KINGSWOOD IN THE REIGN OF CHARLES II.

The Rev. George Fownes, of Broadmead Church, had attended a meeting at Kingswood, and was apprehended while returning on horseback, and sent to Gloucester Prison. He was charged with riot, and kept in prison till he died, 1660.

Many meetings were held in Kingswood by the Baptist ministers, 1682, of which the following is a brief account:

On Lord's Day, May 14th, 1682, met in Kingswood, in the way to Hanham, and Bro. Winnell preached in peace.

On the 18th also, Bro. Hennings preached in peace; only three boys and two maids came from Squire Brown's. The colliers scoffed.

On the 6th of August, Sunday, 1682, we met in Kingswood, in two different places. Pastor preached in peace, though we were told in the morning greatest trouble would befall us that day.

On the 13th our Pastor preached in the wood, and afterwards broke bread in Mr. Young's house in peace.

Mr. Hillier and the rest were busy that day, and shut the gates (of the city), and kept watch at Weir, behind St. Phillip's, to prevent my going out, and in the evening to catch them coming in; and he took up several in the evening as vagrants, on the Lord's day, and sent some to Newgate and some to Bridewell prisons, watching till 7 in the evening for that purpose.

On the 20th, we met at 'Scruze' Hole. Mr. Knight, from Taunton, and Mr. Ford, from Bristol, a mercer, were pursued above Hanham, and Ford driven into the river and was drowned.

Mr. Terrell, writer of Broadmead Annals, records ten persecutions from 1660 to the year 1685.

WHITEFIELD AT KINGSWOOD.

In the earlier days, as the coalworks increased, it appears the condition of the colliers grew worse and worse. Neither can this be wondered at, seeing that for a hundred years or more prior to this time no education or instruction, religious or secular, had ever been attempted. Hence the Kingswood people were designated "savages"; their condition was said to be worse than that of the Indians, and their huts altogether deplorable. It was a happy change when at this time, 1739, George Whitefield came to the rescue. The incident which brought him to Bristol is recorded thus, viz.:—"When on a visit to Bristol Whitefield spoke of converting the savages of America, to which place he was about to go, many of his friends said to him 'What need of going abroad for this? Have we not Indians enough at home? If you have a mind to convert Indians there are colliers enough at Kingswood?' When the condition of these colliers was described to him, Whitefield says 'that his bowels yearned for them, for he saw them as sheep without a shepherd.' On a Saturday, therefore, Whitefield went over in the afternoon, and stood upon a mount in a place called Rose Green, his 'first field pulpit,' and preached to as many as came to hear. Not more than two hundred, says he, gathered around, but 'the ice was broken.' Whitefield's second audience at Kingswood consisted of some two thousand, his third from four to five thousand, and they went on increasing to ten, fourteen, and twenty thousand persons."

The sight of so many colliers in their miserable condition at Kingswood produced a deep impression upon Whitefield. "As the scene was new," he says, "and I had just begun to be an extempore preacher, it often occasioned many inward conflicts. Sometimes when twenty thousand people were before me, I had not, in my own apprehension, a word to say either to God or them. The open firmament above me, the prospect of the adjacent fields with the sight of the thousands and thousands, some in coaches, some on horseback, and some in the trees, and at times all affected and drenched in tears together—to which sometimes was added the solemnity of the approaching evening

—was almost too much for, and quite overcame me.” “The gladness and eagerness with which these poor despised outcasts, who had never been in a church in their lives, received the truth is beyond description. Having no righteousness of their own to renounce they were glad to hear of Him who was the Friend of publicans, and came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. The first discovery of their being affected was to see the white gutters made by their tears, which plentifully fell down their black faces, black as they came out of the coal-pits. Hundreds and hundreds of them were soon brought under deep conviction, which, as the event proved, ended in a sound and thorough conversion. The change was visible to all, though numbers chose to impute it to anything rather than the finger of God.”

Whitefield has been justly called the “Apollos of England;” certainly he was the “sent one” to Kingswood. The Rev. Mark Wilks, who heard Whitefield preach, and who described the result of his preaching in Kingswood twenty-seven years after Whitefield’s death, says: “No colliery equalled that of Kingswood in civility and genuine Christianity since Whitefield had preached there, whereas before that period a stranger could not pass without the grossest insults,” showing that the impressions produced by that great man were permanent.

From that time to this Kingswood has never receded into its former state of darkness, but, contrarily, has so far advanced that there are now numerous large and handsome churches and chapels in almost every street, some of which are exceedingly costly buildings. Curiously, too, there has grown among the people here a great taste for music, nearly every church and chapel being furnished with a large and very handsome organ. Whitefield’s work and success were great wonders in his own day, and his power as a preacher and reformer to many now is still a mystery and a marvel. In his ministry of thirty-four years he preached more than eighteen thousand sermons without a scrap of note, and was sometimes engaged thus for seven hours in a day. Nor were his hours in the night wholly exempt from toil, for he declared that many of his sermons were “thought out” on his bed. Yet we are told he was genial, and in his

conversation could find time to be humorsome, especially over his light supper. He then unbent the bow of his spirit until it cooled from the friction of the burning arrows he shot during the day.

David Hume heard Whitefield preach, and described the close of the sermon thus:—"After a solemn pause, towards the end, Mr. Whitefield addressed the audience as follows—'The attendant angel is just about to leave the threshold and ascend to heaven. And shall he ascend and not bear with him the news of one sinner reclaimed from the error of his ways in this great multitude?' The preacher then stamped with his foot, lifted up his hands and eyes to heaven, and, with gushing tears, cried aloud, 'Stop, Gabriel, stop, ere you enter the sacred portal, and yet carry with you the news of one sinner converted to God.' Whitefield, then, in most simple but energetic language, described what he called a Saviour's dying love to mortal man, so that almost the whole of the assembly melted into tears."

But, notwithstanding Whitefield's power and success, he was miserably persecuted. Sometimes slandered, at other times mobbed, ducked, stoned, and covered with filth. Cowper writes of him that he was

The very butt of slander, and the blot
For every dart that malice ever shot.
The man that mention'd him at once dismissed
All mercy from his lips, and sneer'd and hissed ;
His crimes were such as Sodom never knew,
And perjury stood up to swear all true ;
His aim was mischief, and his zeal pretence ;
His speech rebellion against common sense.
A knave, when tried by Honesty's plain rule,
And, when by that of Reason, a mere fool,
The world's best comfort was, his doom was past,
Die when he might, he must be damn'd at last.

Cowper himself, in the same poem, nobly defends Whitefield, and declares of him that

He loved the world that hated him ; the tear
That dropped upon his Bible was sincere ;
Assailed by scandal, and the tongue of strife,
His only answer was—a blameless life.

ROWLAND HILL AT KINGSWOOD.

Rowland Hill, after his ordination, preached his first sermon in St. Werburgh's, Bristol; this was at the request of his friend, Mr. Rouquet, the son of a French Protestant refugee. Mr. Rouquet was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, London, and at Oxford. He became superintendent of the school at Kingswood, at the request of John Wesley. He was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Gloucester (Dr. Johnson), but was dismissed for preaching from house to house in the villages, and in the gaol at Bristol. Notwithstanding this he was afterwards ordained priest by Dr. Wills. With such a man Rowland Hill was in warm sympathy and companionship when in Bristol. The preaching of Rowland Hill was a great trouble to his father, Sir Rowland; and he often cautioned Richard, his other son, not to do as Rowland did, and persuaded him not to follow his example.

An event, however, had occurred during the last visit to Bristol and neighbourhood which might well have tried the paternal patience to the utmost. Gratified by his son Richard having desisted from preaching, in deference to his wishes, old Sir Rowland sent him to Bristol to persuade his brother to follow his example, and return home. On arriving at Bristol Richard learned that his brother had gone to Kingswood to preach to the colliers. Thither he followed him. He found him addressing a vast multitude of these long neglected people, who were listening with the deepest interest to the solemn appeals and loving invitations of the preacher. Rowland saw his brother, but went on, without appearing to notice him. When Richard witnessed the effects of his brother's preaching—the faces of the rough pitmen channeled with tears of penitence and of joy—he was deeply moved. Rowland saw the emotion, and taking advantage of it, he announced, at the close of the service—"My brother, Richard Hill, Esquire, will preach here at this time to-morrow." Taken by surprise, Richard consented, and instead of taking back his brother, remained with him to assist in the very work he had come to persuade him to relinquish.

CHAPTER XXXII.

OLD WORKS.

MANUFACTURE OF PINS.

NEXT to the old places of worship in interest are the "old works and manufactories" formerly carried on in Kingswood. Thus, besides the manufactories for "spelter," previously described as at Warmley Towers, there appears to have been numerous other works of that kind in several places. Traces of such old works now, however, are fast disappearing, and can only be found here and there in the old rubbish heaps or other *debris*. A curious sort of "black brick" is to be seen in various places in the neighbourhood, exceedingly hard, smooth, and resembling black molten glass—the only remains left now possibly to tell the story of many of these old works. These bricks were made from the molten "slag" or cinder of the "black-jack" used in the making of the "spelter." Instead of allowing the molten cinder to run away, as in the case of the melting of iron ores, the slag was allowed to run into moulds of various forms; these when set to cool formed serviceable blocks or squares suitable for building and other purposes. These black "slags"—for they still bear the old name—are exceedingly durable. Neither rain, sun, nor atmosphere apparently affects them—their surface retaining the same smooth, glassy surface now, and are as clean as when they left the mould at first. Many cottages were built of these slags, and large blocks in triangular shapes for capping stone walls are numerous in the neighbourhood. The cottage standing at the top of Soundwell Lane, on the exact spot where formerly stood the old Oak Cross, by Richmond Buildings, is built of these slags—they were brought from the spelter works, formerly in Poorhouse Lane, New Cheltenham.*

* The cottage is since pulled down.

But, perhaps, the most interesting works in Kingswood were those of the "pin" trade, because it was in this place where the use of machinery was first most successfully introduced into that branch of business. It is said that Robert Charleton, the famous Quaker, and one of the gentlemen who went to Russia to try to dissuade the Emperor from plunging into the Crimean war, lost an immense fortune in Kingswood in the invention of the "pin" machine. Whether that was so or not I cannot say, but he certainly spent much time and money in the neighbourhood. Mr. Charleton was a gentleman most dearly loved and highly respected in Kingswood. The children especially, for whom he supported a school, were exceedingly attached to him, and almost always when he appeared in the public streets followed him in large crowds, hugging and clinging to his coat, and in other demonstrative ways endeavouring to show their great regard. There were several large pin works in Kingswood, the largest of which was named after the above gentleman, and was called the "Charleton Pin Works." Later, this passed to the family of the "Lamberts," and was called after that name. There were also the "Tower Pin Works," the "Soundwell Pin Works," and the Pin Works carried on at Kingswood by Messrs. Bennett and Munro.

Before the pin machine was invented, the process of pin-making was very curious, and employed in it many women and children. The process was as follows, viz.:—The wire having been straightened was cut into equal lengths according to the size of the pins required. These lengths, called "shanks," were passed to an operator called a "pointer," who sat before a revolving wheel like a grindstone and pressed them on the wheel, at the same time giving them a turn between his finger and thumb. This operation was called "pointing," and a pointer could earn thirty shillings or two pounds per week. The "shanks" pointed were weighed out next and given to the "headers," *i.e.*, persons who put on the heads. The women were each furnished with a "pin block," not unlike a butcher's block, upon which were fixed several uprights and cross pieces as levers. On one end of the lever was attached a ponderous weight carrying a rod and die in its end. The weight was lifted with

the foot by means of a string attached to the other end of the lever. The weight thus being lifted by the foot, the woman next threaded a head on to the shank and held it upon another die made fast in the block, and which corresponded to the die in the weight above. The foot was then removed or eased upward, as in a sewing machine, when down came the weight and crushed the head on to the shank. This operation was repeated several times, and the pin was headed. Not infrequently there were six or seven women at one block, each one having a separate weight and treadle. When it is considered that a woman could "head a pin" in a second or two, it may be imagined what a thundering noise a block of this kind would make in a house.

When the above works were in full operation there was a "pin block" in almost every house; consequently, wherever one went he heard the incessantly thumping and bumping of the "pin-headers." The women, it is said, were exceedingly fond of "heading," and not infrequently three or four would sing together some ditty, keeping regular time with the regular thump, thump of the "pin-block."

After heading, the pins were taken back to the factory to be whitened, and then again distributed for the purposes of "sticking," *i.e.*, to be placed in rows as now sold in shops. The pin trade was entirely changed on the introduction of machinery. Messrs. Charleton and Lambert introduced a small machine, not unlike, in size, a sewing machine, which completely altered the entire business. After a few years from this date they had a large room fitted up, and on each side were a number of these machines—all in full operation. The sight was exceedingly pretty. In some of the machines the bright little pins were seen dropping very regularly into a basket, two or three a second, after having been "headed," the sparkle accompanying them appearing like burning drops of liquid. Others, again, were carried around from the "heading" apparatus to the receiver in wheels, looking like so many little stars. A little brass box, called a "hopper," filled with "shanks" to be headed, kept up an incessant buzzing by shaking out a solitary shank at a time, to be in its turn caught on the machine and thumped into a pin. On a bright day when the sun shone on the little bright

machines—all in motion, and the thousands of bright yellow pins were apparently dancing all sorts of antics—the effect was exceedingly pleasing. The whole of the pin works in Kingswood came to an end, and are now closed. The large factory of “Lamberts” is still in the market, together with the neat house —“Filwood House”—all to be sold.*

MANUFACTURE OF BRASS.

Among the many articles besides pins, spelter, and various utensils wrought in copper, there were also considerable quantities of “brass” made and exported from this neighbourhood. At the works of Mr. Champion, at the Tower, and at many of the other spelter works it appears to have been a practice to produce that article in conjunction with spelter.

Several workers in brass were living at Filton in the year 1760; these families came into the neighbourhood when Mr. Champion had his works at Warmley Towers. A family also related to the Braines from Iron Acton, who were “wire-drawers,” settled at New Cheltenham, Kingswood. The last of them died in a house on the spot near to Mr. Hunter’s new villa, Honey Hill. The house was pulled down about seventy years ago—a well in the field now marks the spot. They intermarried with the De Marys, a family now known by the name of Demmery.

Large quantities of brass, spelter, and shot, were made at New Cheltenham, and the original works of the Bristol Brass Battery and Copper Company, begun about 1704, were these works, and called at that time the

“CUPOLA WORKS.”

A large tower for making shot, together with the cupola towers over the spelter furnaces, gave them this name. Why it was called New Cheltenham, I cannot trace. During the French Wars, “the press gang” came out of Bristol and thought to make some captures of the strong men employed here. The men hearing of this, each armed himself with an iron bar and kept it red-hot in the furnaces. When the gang made their

* Again occupied.

appearance, the workmen charged them with a shout and red-hot iron. "The press gang" fled; one was seriously wounded. The same company set up "Hammer Mills" at Warmley Towers, which were driven by water, for beating out the flat discs of copper and brass into pans and dishes and other utensils, &c., for the market.

The company had works also at Bitton, Saltford, Kelston; but their chief establishment was, and still is, at Keynsham, where this old established company has gone on for so many years, and still survives, quietly pursuing its interests; whilst many others, with far greater attractions, like splendid meteors, have blazed with many a dazzling brilliancy in the commercial sky, and have as quickly been put out.

THE MANUFACTURE OF SPELTER.

THE STORY OF JOHN CHAMPION.

The traditional history of John Champion is remarkable, and worthy of record. In early life he went to Holland, there representing himself as a beggar, and got employed there many years as a labourer, during which time he was learning the secret to make brass and zinc. When he left he induced several workmen to return with him to England, and with them he set up the works at Warmley. The variety of languages which they spoke gave rise to the place being called Babel's Tower, in connection with a tower still standing, a necessary appendage, in which was a wind-mill used for crushing the ore. The workmen who came with him were called Craymer, Hollister, Ollis, Frankham, and Steager; their descendants still live in Bitton, or near to it, and some are still workmen at the Battery works.

The following is copied from the *Journals* of the House of Commons:

William Champion, Nehemiah Champion's youngest son, was one of the first English manufacturers of Spelter; previously imported from India. He had his works at Warmley, a freehold property bequeathed to him by his father. On the 21st February, 1750, William Champion presented a petition to the House of Commons, in which he stated:—"That he had spent a great portion of his life in the study of mineral productions, and had travelled into most parts of Europe in pursuit of

such knowledge. On his return to England he found the supply of Tontonage, commonly called Spelter, depended on the East Indies. Ingrossers had raised the price, in 1731, to £260 per ton. He had resolved to try to discover the art of making it. He had pursued his experiments for six years at great expense. He had applied in 1737 for a patent for making Tontonage or Spelter, and which was just expired. He had erected large premises and made 200 tons, when the importers brought in a large supply, and lowered the price from £260 to £48 per ton, at a supposed profit of £22 to £25 per ton to the importers. Not being able to procure such prices for his Spelter as would admit of profit, is a great sufferer. The Spelter being made wholly from the produce of this kingdom, and many hundreds of poor being employed, he prayed for an extension of the patent." The petition was referred to a committee. It was opposed by petition from certain merchants, traders, and others of Preston, on 26th, 1751, and the Bill was abandoned.—(*Journals, House of Commons*). This petition was for a renewal of Patent granted to him in 1738—No. 564.

See further account under Warmley.

MANUFACTURE OF IRON.

We will now pass to another manufactory of metal—the Iron Mills at Willsbridge. These mills were erected on the site of the ancient manor house of Oldland, on a stream called the Millclack Brook, which runs through the valley of Southernwood.* As early as 1712 Mr. John Pearsall set them up for rolling iron, especially hoop iron; also for making steel. The works were successfully carried on by the family for many years.

In 1801 Mr. Thos. Pearsall took out a Patent, dated 30 Dec., for his invention in applying hoop-iron for the construction of roofs instead of timber; but it was a failure—a roof set up over the London Docks collapsed—after that, the works were discontinued. Mr. Pearsall retired to Bath, where he died March, 1825. The premises were sold in 1816, and the mill converted into a flour mill.

There was another Iron Mill at Wick, on the borders of Bitton, worked by the waters of the River Boyd, where scrap-iron, under heavy tilt hammers was worked into solid masses, called PUDDINGS, and then rolled into bar and bolt iron.

* History of Bitton Parish—Ellacombe.

Persons passing through Wick will find large quantities of iron slag, and mineral stone containing iron. The examination of the neighbourhood shows that iron works of some kind were carried on long anterior to the scrap Iron Mills at Wick. See account in history of Villages.

CHEMICAL MANUFACTURES.

A little above the Willsbridge Mills in Oldland Bottom, a Chemical manufactory was established for making sal-ammoniac, glauber's salts, ivory black, &c.; the firm was Holbrow, Haynes and Co., under the management of Mr. William Henderson, the son of a former manager, at the time the premises belonged to Mr. Jos. Stibbs. It passed into various hands, and was entirely closed about 1840; the premises were sold in 1850, and the works carried to Netham.

At Conham there was at the beginning of the present century a manufactory of Gibbesium, so named from Dr. Gibbes, an eminent physician of Bath, who invented a process for the speedy conversion of animal matter into spermaceti; also Prussian blue and hartshorn.

BEAVER AND FELT HAT MANUFACTURE.

The making of Hats from wool, by fêlting and covering them with the furs of the hare and rabbit, was a manufacture in which many of the families living on Oldland Common were busily and profitably engaged, especially from the beginning of the last century. The beaver work was chiefly done for the London market and Bristol, the wool felt work for Bristol and foreign market.*

THE COAL-PIT DRUM MANUFACTURES.

The most primitive works in Kingswood, however, and the last to which I shall refer, were those necessitated in the production of coals. Numerous small works called "tub shops" and smith's shops, like the Owl's Head works at Hanham, were dotted about almost everywhere amidst the coal pits. These were for the purpose of repairs, and the manufactory of certain

* History of Bitton Parish—Ellacombe.

peculiar tools, &c., used in the pits. It must be borne in mind that steam engines were not then known, and nearly every operation was effected by hard manual labour. Indeed every pound of coal was drawn to the surface in the same simple manner as water is drawn from a well, *i.e.*, by means of "reel and standers." The first advance on this was the "tub," or "drum"—a large wheel horizontally fixed on a shaft, and drawn around its axis by horse power, with which greater quantities of coals could be lifted at a time. These "drums" were made at shops appointed for that purpose, and being very large—sixteen to twenty feet in diameter—needed much space for their construction; hence the name of "tub shops." The "tubs" were the only "engines" used on the pit banks at Kingswood for lifting purposes for more than two hundred years; after which the steam engine and the "tub" were frequently seen side by side. From its extreme simplicity and safety it was retained in actual use in Kingswood till about twenty years ago, when it disappeared altogether. Thereby, however, hangs a

A true tale of a tub.

Besides these "tubs," there were manufactured also some very odd sorts of tools, which, thanks to improved machinery, are now almost unknown. Boys' tuggers, hods and wickers, dagger-like candlesticks, made to stick in the coal; large iron buckets, called carts, and numerous picks and other instruments were made at these works. The tuggers were for lads who were employed at very tender ages—the fathers carrying the lads sometimes on their backs to the pits, and in many instances, where the lads were timid, putting them into sacks, and keeping them thus till they reached the bottom of the shaft. They were then stripped to the waist, shoes and stockings thrown aside, and harnessed with a "tugger." This was made of a thick rope and a hook in the end. It passed round the loins, and between the legs. It was then hooked on to a hod or wicker—a sort of box or basket—and thus equipped, the boy crawling on "all fours" through a passage extremely narrow, was compelled to pursue his work of fetching coals to the bottom of the pit throughout the whole of the men's turn or day. In going up an incline, the

boys undid their "tuggers" and pushed their hods along with their heads, and as a result of this practice the colliers in Kingswood were generally all baldheaded before they were forty years old, and many before they were thirty. The old candlestick is still retained here in the coal works, the coal in Kingswood not being "fiery." It is amusing to see the colliers of this place going to work with the "stick"—a steel clip in the shape of a cross, and also half-a-pound of candles stuck around their black hats—candles being still used in the pits, the "Davy Lamp" not being necessary.

OLD CUSTOMS.

Associated with the old works were some curious provincial customs and sayings which have of late years died out. There are, however, many dialectic expressions which are retained in the neighbourhood, while in other parts of the country they appear not to be known. The old feudal custom of "vowing by the peacock" was formerly common in some of the villages around the Forest, but is not now known. The meat of the peacock and of the swan was considered to be the proper food for young knights and "loving ladies," and vows, on solemn occasions were made by these birds. Edward I. swore by the swans.*

The "old style" of keeping Christmas is not much observed. Formerly the cottages were profusely decorated with evergreens and mistletoe, adorned with "sweethearts'" cuts, *i.e.*, with papers tinselled over and curiously cut into emblematical designs. Bands of men called "Christmas boys," dressed in imitation of old knights or warriors, went from house to house seeking money, after the manner of the "French jongleurs" of olden times. The Christmas feasts also began by a breakfast of "toast and cyder." These customs are now but little, if at all, observed in Kingswood, Christmas Day being generally spent as a Sunday, with the exception, perhaps, of eating and drinking a little more than is usual. The "wassail bowl" and "May-day" customs have also disappeared. The "village revels" are still

* A Bell's Feud.

observed, but with so little spirit that ere long they must be things of the past. Even the "harvest home," so generally observed in all the villages, is not now, I think, noticed anywhere here. This seems a real pity, for who is there that does not rejoice in a harvest home? when—

We've stack'd the load and hous'd the wain,
The harvest labours ending,
The weary team adown the lane
To field are gladly wending;
And thus we all in song rejoice,
Till heart with heart and voice with voice
In sweet accord are blending,
In sweet accord are blending.

Many of the old sayings peculiar to this county, and which are not known generally, were carefully preserved or retained in Kingswood, the colliers, apparently delighting in anything that savoured of fun or caustic. Of course, many of these, from their low character, cannot appear. Fosbroke, in his "County History," has given us a few of these sayings, but not a tenth of what are known to exist. The following are among the most popular, viz. :—

I.

When raining hard they say: "It's showering like a Tormarton." This is because when the wind is in the east it is generally a long rain; Tormarton being eastward from Kingswood.

II.

To a man who looks stern and sour they say: "You have been brought up on Tewkesbury mustard."

III.

If anything is lost: "You can always find it on Mary Bowden's shelf," i.e., on the floor.

IV.

"As sure as God's in Gloucester"; an old saying generally used in the county. It comes, says Fosbroke, from the alliteration of the letter G, and the number of religious houses formerly in Gloucestershire.

V.

To a very masculine looking woman they would say: "You are a Wilgil," *i.e.*, neither man nor woman.

VI.

"A Cockrode fool is an ugly tool," because he was generally a thief.

VII.

"It is as long a coming as Cotswold barley"; the corn on the "wolds" being late in harvest.

DIALECT AND PRONUNCIATION.

The local dialect, which is now fast changing in consequence of education, was even more peculiar than the sayings. It is somewhat difficult, even now, for the person who has been trained among the people of this county, and especially in the colliery districts, to get out of certain harsh sounds so customarily heard there, unless he be apprised of it, and watch for himself his mistakes. As Fosbroke says: "The incessant use of *do* and *did* attracts the ear of all strangers"; and the propensity of perpetually using the flat *a* for *o* is exceedingly offensive, especially to persons who look for euphony or nice phonetic syllabic elements in the language. The harsh sounds are heard in the following words:—

Gloucestershire is pronounced Glacestershire; hawk is pronounced hark; fark is put for fork, laryer for lawyer. Whenzen is used for girls; howsen for houses, and *thee* for you and thou; *hire* A.S. for hear. The A.S. *thilk* is in constant use as thick and thuck. "Plym" is a verb, and is used for anything swelling; hence a person who is getting stout is said to be getting "plym." *Her* is put for she; I for me; woll for will; sprack for lively; and neglection for neglect. Hopping mad is to be violent tempered; slowse is to throw water; douse, to throw dust. Wher is whither; mayen, must; geven and goven are given; chummer, chamber; mought, might; gowt, sink or gutter. The Keltic words *snaegle*, *sniggle*—to creep or crawl in a cunning way; and *perty*, *spruce*, are also frequently used.

The following verses from Fosbroke will show many of the old harsh sounds, viz. :—

GEORGE RIDLER'S OVEN.

The stwons that built George Ridler's oven,
And thauy quem from the Bleakeny's quaar ;
And George he wur a jolly old mon,
And his yead it graw'd above his yare.

One theng of George Ridler I must commend,
And that wur vor a notable theng :
He mead his braags avoor he died
Wi' any dree brothers his zons zshould zeng.

There's Dick the treble, and John the mean
(Let every mon zing in his awn pleace),
And George he wur the elder brother,
And therevoore he would zing the beass.

Mine hostess's moid, and her neaume twur Nell—
A purtey wench, and I lov'd her well ;
I loved her well, good reazon why,
Because she lov'd my dog and I.

My dog is good to catch a hen,
A duck or goose is vood for men ;
And whar ere good company I spy,
O, thether gwoes my dog and I.

My mwother tould I when I wur young,
If I did vollow the strong beer pwoot,
That drenk would pruv my auverdrow,
And meauk we wear a dread-bear cwoat.

My dog has gotten zich a trick
To visit moids when thauy be zick ;
Then thauy be zick and like to die,
O, thether gwoes my dog and I.

When I have dree zixpences under my thumb,
O, then I be welcome wherever I come ;
But when I have none, O, then I pass by—
'Tis poverty pearts good company.

If I should die, as it may hap,
My greauve shall be under the good yeal tap ;
In vowl'd earms there wool I lie,
Cheek by jowl my dog and I.

Zo that you may knaaw, both nigh and from var,
Zomething of the stwons in the Bleakeny's quaar ;
George Ridler died, as he've voorsaid,
And in vowl'd earms in his greauve is laid.

George lyes at the bottom and his dog at the top,
But nat as he wished under a good yeal tap ;
A very girt stwone lyes above, covered auvern,
The very best stwone from George Ridler's oven.*

MODE OF DRESS, &c.

Not the least curious was the style of clothing, or the local dress worn by the people. The men, in their best attire, usually wore "knee-breeches," cut ridiculously large a little above the knee, and resembling very much in size that of a clown's dress. These garments were marvels of tailoristic ingenuity, with a "watch-fob" nearly a foot deep, pockets or bags of enormous size, and sundry odd embellishments, as conveniences, gave them anything but an attractive appearance. White stockings invariably accompanied the breeches, and a jacket or sort of tunic made of thick flannel was worn above. Rows of white buttons usually adorned the breeches round the knee, or else a piece of coloured ribbon tied in a smart bow ; rows of white buttons also adorned the jacket. A soft felt hat and boots completed the men's attire.

The women usually wore extremely short petticoats or skirts ; but, apparently, a considerable number of them tied one over the other loosely around the hips. The "gown" or dress was of the same length, both reaching only a little below the knees. A large apron, coloured or white, was always worn outside the dress to keep it clean. Many years after Whitefield and Wesley preached in Kingswood the women always appeared in chapel

* The original verses are sixteen.

with their aprons on. White stockings and long pointed shoes with high heels, "stuffed," a gaudy shawl and curious bonnet, together with a "band"—a piece of ribbon or stuff—passing round the head just above the eyes, completed the women's attire. Not an attractive attire surely, but a very conspicuous one, especially from the fact that the powerful "white limbs" were everywhere visible among both men and women. It may not have been generally known that the old race of people inhabiting Kingswood Forest were men and women of immense size. The old families of the Gingels, Rawbones, Batmans, Boults, Phippses, Jeffrieses, Tippits or Tippetts, Batts, and others, were families of which, both the men and women, were of unusually large and giant-like proportions—the men reaching to six feet and over, and the women also to a corresponding height, most of them being equally corpulent and bony. An old saying originated from this fact. An old father, who had ten sons and one daughter, was accustomed to say, "I got ten gurt sons, and all of um got a sister apiece, and all of um are awver zix voot apiece, and all of um got legs like hosses." Hence the saying when the person was stout, "He was one of Batman's gurt uns."

A curious dress was also worn by a class of women who attended the Bristol market from this neighbourhood. They usually carried fruits, flowers, and vegetables, and had for this purpose donkeys with panniers. These women wore large hats, called "shovel hats," and thick, heavy blue coats with "capotes," not unlike the coats which "busmen" wear now-a-days. These women, generally fine women, perched upon their donkeys, and rain or shine, seemed to defy the weather. A grave old dame attired thus, and nicely balanced between the two panniers, on her way to market, was accosted by some young fops just leaving the city in the following manner: "Good morning, mother of donkeys," said one, scornfully scanning the old lady's face. "Ye-a-a-y," said the old lady in broad Kingswood dialect, "good mornin' to thee, *my son*." The dandy retreated.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

TRADE, &c.

PASSING from the old customs, of which I have given only a brief sketch—omitting also many curious legendary stories and superstitious practices—some account of the rapid change in trade, and other matters, which have taken place of late years in the neighbourhood may not be deemed uninteresting. These may be, I think, appropriately considered under the designation of

MODERN KINGSWOOD.

Like all prosperous modern villages, towns, and cities, Kingswood owes its present thriving aspect and condition to its trade. Not, however, as is generally supposed, from its colliery trade, although that, doubtless, is a considerable integrant in its sum; it is curious that although most of the old manufactories have come to an end, as we have seen, others have been introduced which, from their curious nature and surroundings, could not have been thought in any sense, twenty years ago, to have effected that which we now see on every side—so many visible signs of prosperity. The trade to which I specially allude here, and which has most successfully thriven in Kingswood, is that of the manufacturing of boots and shoes by means of “rivetting.” Shoemaking is an old branch of business long carried on in Kingswood. In the days of “wood heels,” “pointed toes,” and “stubbed” boots, a great many hands were employed here, besides a number of women who made children’s shoes. But it remained for the present generation to introduce a novelty into this business which has produced an entire revolution in shoemaking; and it is encouraging

also to observe that this great change was effected mainly by two persevering Bristol tradesmen. It may be remembered that a little more than twenty years ago, rivetted boots were not known. At that time a Mr. Crick, of Leicester, manufactured children's boots by "nailing them through from the inside"—the only boot resembling the rivetted style. This apparently led to the suggestion that a boot could be fastened or rivetted from the outside, and thus dispense with the old system of sewing with wax and thread. The enterprising firm of Derham Brothers, who had just settled in Nelson Street, Bristol—and here, after making many attempts, they at last succeeded in producing a most durable boot by this process, *i.e.*, by means of riveting.

This new boot was designated the "everlasting boot," and in less than a twelvemonth from that date thousands of pounds worth of boots and shoes made upon the new principle were sold and sent all over the country. Subsequently they introduced machinery and steam power, opened a house in London and another in Northampton, with what further success the citizens of Bristol are best acquainted.

A large number of shoemakers in Kingswood found ready employment at the above firm, some carrying the work home, being chiefly sewn work, while others were employed in the factory. But as this new branch of the trade was carrying all before it, and causing some jealousy, other manufacturers embarked in the same "line," and shared the spoil. Hence within a few years several firms arose, and first mostly in the neighbourhood of Kingswood, where men from the above firm were somewhat acquainted with the business. From that time to this the shoe trade in Kingswood has steadily advanced; a large proportion of the population are employed in it; factories have been built, and handsome villas for rich owners are conspicuous buildings in the locality. Indeed in every particular instance success appears to have followed the undertaking.

The most prominent shoe works in Kingswood, and those which appear to have been specially successful, are those of MESSRS. FLOOK, and MESSRS. A. FUSSELL & SONS. Messrs. Flook are old and well-known names in the neighbourhood, and for

nearly a century have carried on works in connection with either the leather or shoe trade. The original firm appears to have been begun by two brothers, Moses and Daniel, who afterwards separated. Some of the old people relate curious stories about these brothers, especially of the latter, or Daniel, who was considered somewhat of "a dry, matter-of-fact sort of a man." Apparently he was a man who acted with great caution, and needed generally good evidence of success before he ventured to embark in any enterprise. It is due, possibly, to this quality, inherited by his descendants, that they have also succeeded so well in life. The other brother, Moses, figured more especially in his manner of address. He was exceedingly refined and polite, and, although a very corpulent man, was wonderfully nimble on his feet. His store and dwelling were models of neatness, "a place for everything, and everything in its place," being evidently his guiding principle in business. For many years he was churchwarden of Holy Trinity, and looked a noble and happy old gentleman in his place in that bright and clean little sanctuary. Messrs. Flook and Bird built a new factory in Kingswood some years ago, since which time some hundreds of men and boys have been employed by them in the "rivetting shoe trade," affording profitable employment to many of the inhabitants.

Kingswood now contains a considerable number of large, first-class, and well-known factories, besides many smaller concerns. To keep pace, then, with this growth Messrs. Flook have not been idle, and their factory comprises three-storied buildings of commodious extent, and covering a good area of ground, which of course have been erected, altered, or enlarged, as the exigencies of the trade called for. The main building is arranged as follows:—on the ground floor is the taking-in and giving-out department for outworkers, the clicking room, pressed leather stockroom, and foreman's office; the next floor contains the offices of the firm, packing department, and storerooms for nailed work; while the top floor is chiefly used as a storeroom and warehouse for light work. "On both these floors we saw at least thirty thousand pairs of boots, which will at once give our readers some idea of the extent of the factory and its

resources."* Adjoining this building, and connected with it, are the one and two-storied premises, which are exceptionally well-lighted and ventilated, as indeed the whole factory is. These comprise the machine room and leather store, the press-room, rivetting and finishing shops, while at the further end is the packing-box shop and stables. On entering these works one is at once struck with the convenient arrangement and systematic organisation, and on inquiring more particularly into the working, it is evident that no effort or expense has been spared to render it thoroughly complete in every respect. The machinery in use is of the most advanced type, and the stitching machines are the very best. Altogether the firm employ about four hundred hands; two important features in connection therewith is the long service of many and the continual good feeling that exists between employers and employed.

This house of business has a prior claim to many others inasmuch as it was one of the pioneers of the shoe trade in the neighbourhood. The rivetting process was taken up by Mr. Daniel Flook simultaneously, and he claims to have done it prior, to the time of Messrs. Derham Brothers, Bristol; certainly he was the first to use steam power.

Mr. D. Flook commenced business in 1847; and this increased so rapidly that he had to buy land and build larger premises within a few years afterwards. In 1867 he took into partnership, Mr. Bird; and in 1878 bought additional premises in Quay Street, Bristol, for making lighter goods, the heavier and stronger being made at Kingswood.

During all this time Mr. Flook set his heart upon building a better class of houses for the working classes in Kingswood. Carrying out his purpose, he erected more than fifty houses suitable for this class; and since then more than that number doubled of a better class. "Claremont Buildings," "Lorne," "Albert," "Wesley," "Victoria," and "Regent Streets," all owe their popular and aristocratic names to the baptism of the "forward movement" of this indefatigable tradesman, Daniel Flook.

* Trade Journal, *pub.* Birmingham.

The other, and possibly *the largest shoe works in the neighbourhood*, appear to be those of *Messrs. A. Fussell and Sons*, situated on the London Road, not quite a mile from Holy Trinity Church eastward, at the foot of a hill formerly called "Honey Hill." These works, with their surrounding houses for workmen, and the neat villas built by the proprietor and his sons, together with the iron works of Messrs. Gregory on the other side of the road, form an entirely new neighbourhood at this place. Here is built a large factory with steam power attached, various departments for machinery and other purposes, employing a great number of hands. On the "breast" of the hill and near to the works, also overlooking a beautiful valley, the proprietor has erected a substantial villa residence for himself called "Fair View House." Here, in the centre of almost a "ring fence," where the sweet singing of the birds may be heard on one side, and the noise and the "rush of life" on the other; while the "fair view" from over the valley below, in its sweetly solemn stillness, reminds one of the more impressive thoughts of the "hush of life" to be, by-and-by, is a charming spot rarely to be met with. Indeed, one could hardly imagine a more suitable spot, where an eye to business, pure air, sunshine, and a glimpse now and then of "Nature's lovely green," could be all equally shared in at the same time. If it be true, as the Scripture affirms, "that the wise man's eyes are in his head;" and if also the old adage be equally true, that "a business man can do more with one eye than he can with both of his hands," there are not wanting indications here to believe that the enterprising proprietor of these works must have been trained after that model; or otherwise his far-seeing powers and business capacities could not have been always so nicely adjusted and so minutely directed as to secure invariably that uniform and constant success which we see has attended his business all along.

The business was founded thirty-five years ago by Mr. Abraham Fussell, in a comparatively small way, but it was soon evident that the right spirit of enterprise was being employed in the management, for it steadily and rapidly grew in importance and influence, and at the death of its founder, eighteen months ago, it was one of the largest, best known, and most prosperous in

this section of the country. It is now carried on by his sons, who are thoroughly acquainted with the business, and in whose hands it is safe to assert that its reputation and prosperity will be yet further enhanced. The factory employs altogether about four hundred hands, and a feature worthy of note in speaking of this business, is the continual good feeling that exists between employers and employed. The buildings are arranged in the form of a square, the portion facing the road being three-storied, the remainder two-storied, while the centre of the square is partly taken up by another three-storied block adjoining the front, and the engine and boiler house. It is evident in the construction and arrangement of the different workshops that the greatest attention has been paid to hygienic laws, for such excellent ventilation and profuse light is seldom seen in factories of this character. On entering the establishment one is at once struck with the splendid system of organisation that prevails, which cannot help but greatly facilitate the transaction of business. The various departments are arranged as follows:—The ground floors include the press room, rivetting shops, packing case shops, and taking-in and letting-out department, while on the first floors are situated the offices, which are of a handsome character. The machine room, supplied with wax thread machines, including Pearson's celebrated "hard wax" and "Keat's" machines (the only ones of the kind in the district), and driven by steam power, and other sewing and eyeletting machines, and the clicking rooms and finishing shops. The top floors in both the three-storied buildings are utilised for warehouses, and in these a large and varied stock is always kept to meet exigencies. The machinery in use throughout the factory is of the most advanced type. In this connection, mention must be made of the engine and boiler house, which is combined, and is formed by a glass roof covering in the space between the inner building and one of the parallel buildings forming the side of the square, thus allowing all the light it is possible to get, a feature not always aimed at, but which is undoubtedly of the utmost importance. Coming now to the productions of this firm, it may be truly said they bear a standard reputation, for they are remarkable for elegance of design, combined with perfect utility, excellent workmanship

and finish, and thorough durability. They include every description of heavy, medium, and light goods, in each of which a very extensive and valuable trade is done in all parts of the United Kingdom. Recently one of the brothers, Mr. George Fussell, made a journey to the United States and Canada, where he purchased a large quantity of American made leather. Since which time, it has been often a subject of remark and wonder to see loads of American leather daily coming to Kingswood.

During the first sixteen or eighteen years of Mr. Fussell's experience in the leather trade, nothing but English material was used, and to facilitate its procurement this firm had their own tan pits and currying shops. This is now a phase of the past, and though some English leather is now used by them, by far the greater proportion, both for uppers and bottoms, comes from America.

Mr. George Fussell took a deep interest in the American tanning process, and is, we are assured, holder of a number of shares in a large tanning business there. During his recent visit he purchased 10,000 Hemlock sides.

Besides the shoe business, so successfully carried on by this persevering family, they are owners of large COAL WORKS AT OLDLAND COMMON. The late Mr. Fussell purchased these coal works some years ago, but the water-flow and difficulties connected with sinking the mine deeper, made the enterprise a sinking fund in more senses than one for years. Now, however, I am assured on good authority, the mine is paying, and very recently the sons were offered £30,000 for the works. Mr. Gregory, of Kingswood, erected one of his very powerful pumping engines a few years ago, which keeps the pits clear of water. Also a new "lift" engine, with all the latest improvements and patents, for which Mr. Gregory is renowned. A railway has been constructed by them of exceptional difficulty and expense, across the valley to the railway leading to Keynsham, for the carrying of coals to the Avon.

It may not be generally known that Mr. Philip Fussell, who takes the chief interest in the coal business, is a connoisseur in art. The pictures in Fair View House are his, and costly—one

purchased recently by him cost five hundred pounds; the dining-room pictures alone are worth a thousand pounds.

Near to this, and on the other side of the London Road, may be noticed, THE OLD-ESTABLISHED WORKS OF MESSRS. GREGORY; far-famed and well-known for the manufacture of engines and machinery of smooth and excellent workmanship, and where a number of skilled artisans are employed in that branch of business. A large flour mill also adjoins the foundry. The site of these works was chosen here because a continual stream of water from a spring ran past this place, an abundant supply of water being deemed necessary for works of this kind. The stream still flows, not, however, so limpid and shining as then, but a mill stream, turbid, fetid, and hot. A beautiful row of gigantic elms also grew here, reaching from the road to the top of the hill, near to Mr. Hunter's new villa, or into what was formerly known as the "Hag-tree" field. Under the trees, in the field, stood an old-fashioned thatched house, and near to the road another house, occupied by one Josias Jeffries. These were the only houses standing in this place in the year 1750. The latter house was subsequently made into two cottages, and are now absorbed in some other cottages of more recent date. The old thatched house also was pulled down, and where the "majestic and branching elms excluded the mid-day heat," and bowed gracefully their proud heads to every commanding breeze, there towers up now, and high above, a tall and frowning chimney, black, and belching out its thick and angry-looking smoke on all below. A curious oak tree grows on the northern slope of a hill, in the grounds of — Hunter, Esq., formerly called the Hag Tree. It is shaped very much like an umbrella. It is not large, but from its gnarly growth and species, *quercus pedunculata*, it is possible

Its wrinkled form has stood

Age after age, the patriarch of the wood;

And may have seen a thousand springs unfold

Their ravell'd buds, and dip their flowers in gold.

The management of the Gregory Foundry throughout has been marked by enterprise and skill, and the work turned out has at all times been of the very best description, both as regards design and

utility. The works lie a little back from the road at Kingswood Hill, and comprise fitting, turning, and pattern shops, iron and brass foundries, and boiler yard and shop, the whole being equipped with the latest improved machinery, and labour-saving appliances, and arranged and constructed in an admirable manner to suit all requirements. Constant employment is given to a good number of hands, all thoroughly skilled in the various branches of the trade, and all orders, whether new work or repairs, can be executed in the promptest possible manner. The productions of this firm in horizontal and vertical steam engines are held in the highest repute wherever used, combining as they do beauty of design, lightness, strength, excellent workmanship and finish. The same high character is likewise maintained for boilers and general iron and brass work, and the trade done is influential both in and out of Bristol. Mr. Gregory has a wide-spread reputation for pumping and winding engines, his productions in this department being creditable examples of mechanical skill and ingenuity. He is the patentee of valuable improvements in valve and gearing for reversing steam and other engines.

Mr. Gregory personally superintends the business, and being a gentleman of thorough practical ability, a guarantee is thereby assured that all work sent out shall be perfect in every respect. He is well known in commercial and industrial circles, and highly esteemed for his scrupulous integrity and sterling personal worth.

There are also numerous other shoe factories of which I have been unable to obtain any particulars. The following are the principal—Messrs. Mills and Grant's, Mr. Bird's; Mr. Crates has just completed a large and handsome factory on Warmley Hill; Linthorn's, Pratt's, A. C. Holbrook's, and others.

A considerable business has sprung up in the Hanham Lane, under the fostering care of Mr. A. F. Moon. The business is young and healthy. The excellent management and wide practical experience of the proprietors have been the means of the success achieved, for they have been enabled to put goods on the market that would compare with those of any other house in point of workmanship and finish, modern design, and durability. Their factory is two-storied; it has glass parti-

tions all through, so that the office commands the whole of the indoor hands, and of commodious extent; and it is evident that nothing has been forgotten in the general arrangements and equipment that skill or experience could suggest for improving the methods of working. Heavy goods, plain and hobnailed, are the chief productions of this house, and to maintain these at the highest degree of perfection is the constant aim of this firm. The number of hands employed indoors and out is very considerable, and there is not the least difficulty experienced in meeting all demands in the speediest possible manner. The members of the firm personally superintend the business, and conscientiously examine all work before it leaves the establishment.

Messrs. Harris and Fry's combine two departments; one for the grindery business, and a factory at the rear. The business was founded eight years ago, and since that time has enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity, a result that speaks volumes for the thorough experience and sound commercial principles that have been employed in the management. The premises occupied in Belgrave Terrace are exceedingly commodious and well arranged for all the purposes of trade. They comprise a large, well-fitted shop, with two show windows especially devoted to the grindery business, and a convenient, well-equipped factory at the rear. They manufacture principally heavy goods, but attention is also paid to medium and light work. All their productions bear a high reputation for elegance of design, excellent workmanship and finish, and valuable connections are maintained in many parts. They employ an ample staff of hands, both indoors and out, and no difficulty is experienced in meeting all demands with the greatest promptitude. As grindery salesmen they also conduct a very valuable trade, importing their goods in large quantities from the best manufacturers, and thus being able to offer the best advantages in both quality and price. The partners in the firm are gentlemen well known and highly esteemed in trade circles, and the success they are achieving is viewed with the utmost satisfaction by all who know them.

Passing into Hanham, I find two prosperous establishments of the same name. The first is designated THE ANCHOR FACTORY,

belonging to Mr. Jabez Bevan. Hanham is a very flourishing centre of the boot and shoe industry. Established thirty-five years ago, this firm has experienced a continuous and substantial prosperity from the very commencement, a result that testifies in unequivocal terms to the honourable and energetic management. The premises occupied comprise a two-storied business frontage, utilised as offices, showroom, and shop, and a very commodious two-storied factory adjoining. The whole of the buildings are skilfully and conveniently arranged to meet all requirements of the trade, and the factory is especially well-equipped with all the necessary machinery, tools, and appliances for conducting operations on the most approved principles. Employment is given in the various departments to upwards of one hundred and fifty hands, and not the least difficulty is experienced in executing all orders with speed and satisfaction. Messrs. Bevan make a speciality of nailed goods, and it is doubtful if any other house can compare with them in these productions. They also manufacture all kinds of medium and light boots and shoes, and are remarkable throughout for excellent shape, workmanship, and finish. In addition to a large home trade, they export heavily, and have their own travellers at all important centres. The members of the firm are gentlemen of well-known integrity, skill, and courtesy, and the success that has attended all their admirably arranged and honourably carried-out business operations is viewed with the utmost satisfaction by all who know them.

The next ESTABLISHMENT is that of MR. SAMUEL BEVAN, a business founded about fourteen years ago. The factory comprises a large three-storied building and several cottages adjoining, where the machine work is conducted, but as soon as circumstances permit these will be removed to make an extension as the accommodation is found inadequate for the constantly increasing trade. The ground floor of the main building contains the press-room, rounding and finishing shop, and giving-out department; and here is also a six horse-power "Otto" gas engine, which drives the whole of the machinery. On the first floor is the office, packing-room, and clicking shop, while the top floor is utilised entirely as a stock-room. In navvies' boots this

house is probably without a rival, their productions in this line being remarkable for great strength combined with lightness and neatness. In these Mr. Bevan commands a heavy trade at the principal railway centres. In addition to the home trade, large quantities of goods are sent abroad, a branch that has been cultivated with great success. The factory employs altogether upwards of four hundred hands, and it is pleasing to mention that the most friendly feeling exists between employer and employed. It is such houses as this that best represent the capabilities of British industry and enterprise, and afford a powerful illustration of what can be accomplished by skill, energy, and sound commercial principles. Mr. Bevan is well-known and greatly esteemed in trade circles, and his social status is high and well defined.

Another firm which has gained well-merited distinction is that of MESSRS. ALFRED LOVELL & Co., whose factory is situated in Summer Hill, St. George. This firm has been established some five or six years only, but their business career has been one of rapid and very substantial progress. The present premises in occupation are of recent erection, and exceedingly large and commodious. They are three-storied, with large cellar accommodation, and possess considerable street frontage. Attention has evidently been paid by the firm to architectural appearance, for though of very substantial construction the exterior is by no means unattractive. They comprise nicely-fitted offices on the ground floor, and spacious conveniently-arranged warehouses and workshops. The latter are supplied with the best and most improved style of machinery, and each department is under thoroughly able and practical supervision; between two and three hundred hands are employed, and not the least difficulty is experienced in executing all orders in the promptest and most satisfactory manner.

The firm is now engaged in putting down additional plant to meet the greatly increasing demand for this favourite of the trade. They maintain a very influential connection in many parts of the country, and the members themselves are very highly esteemed in social and industrial circles for their strict integrity, unfailing courtesy, and sterling personal worth.

Another large iron foundry is that of MESSRS. SAMUEL PHIPPS AND BROTHERS, noticed previously as "boiler makers." They are also engineers and machinists, employing a considerable number of men.

The last works of importance which I shall refer to are THE OLD CANDLE AND SOAP WORKS ON KINGSWOOD HILL, established about seventy years ago, and carried on for many years by MESSRS. T. HOWES & SON, who are the present owners. The principal article made here appeared to be that of the "pit candle," manufactured for the use of the colliers, and supplied in large quantities to the proprietors of the coal mines. Most of the coal mines in the neighbourhood and for many miles distant were supplied from these works. Besides the "pit candle," however, others for domestic use, and large quantities of soap were made to supply the shops in the various small towns and villages in the county. The works, which were burnt down a few years ago, were re-built, and are still in full operation; the proprietor living in a neat house close by, called "The Poplars." It may be noted, as to good feeling with master and men here, some have been in the employ of the firm for nearly fifty years.

Mr. Howes, from his long residence and genial manner, has won for himself the respect of all classes in the neighbourhood. His business capacity, his urbanity, his absence of pride, and his kindly good word for all has won him crowning honours among all classes of people. Preachers say, "Grace does not run in the blood," but it appears graces do, for Mr. J. T. Howes inherits just the kindly sympathies and sentiments his good father, Thomas Howes, did before him. Hence, when the first Local Board was constituted in Kingswood, Mr. Tippet Howes was chosen chairman to that board—*nemine contradicente*.

Old people say that it was an ancestor of this family, named John Tippet, who built the first house of any pretensions in Kingswood. The house is said to be still standing, but which it is I cannot say. In 1770 one Francis Tippet lived in the first house on the west side of Poorhouse Lane, which would be now opposite Holy Trinity Church. This, I think, is probably the site, but of the house nothing is definite, as a row of cottages now stand there, having been built, apparently, at various times.

The building of this house was thought a wonderful event then in Kingswood, from the fact that it was the first house built with "storeys," or floors above the basement. Houses thus built were designated "chummer houses," *i.e.*, houses having chambers or rooms built one over the other as now. Hence it was customary to speak of this house for a long time after as being the first house in Kingswood built "chummer high." Near to this place also stood the "village stocks," and not far behind it the "old poorhouse." The top of the hill at that time, 1779, must have been exceedingly rural and picturesque. About twenty low thatched cottages skirted the main road, north side, each one standing almost equidistant from the other, beginning a little below Soundwell Lane and reaching to Honey Hill. Seven or eight also stood thus on the top of the hill, south side. There was also a small inn. Between the cottages were high banks, garnished copiously with primula, wood anemone, and wild hyacinth. Rows of dark elms also fenced the way, making the road very sombre and shady.

Beneath the trees on every side might be traced the distant coal mines, the smoke and dust arising from them throwing dark shadows over the lovely bits of blue beyond. The curious and odd cottages, quaint and ugly dresses of the people, together with the numerous colliers in their dingy clothes, black faces, and uncouth manners, each in its way added a charm to the picture. Indeed, everything in Kingswood was extremely primitive and rugged, contrasting so much with educated and polished society and their surroundings as a green gnarled branch contrasts with a piece of high art sculpture. But nature, that "paints the lily," did not overlook the simple home of the collier. Her bountiful hand threw over it many a lovely gem, which, sparkling in her summer sun, made it, even in those early days—

So fresh, so pure, the woods, the sky, the air,
It seemed a place where angels might repair,
And tune their harps beneath those tranquil shades,
To morning songs or moonlight serenades.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

SELF-MADE MEN.

SAMUEL BUDGETT.

ANY historical narrative would be deemed exceedingly incomplete and unsatisfactory without some account of those most enterprising and vigorous men who formerly lived and flourished in the neighbourhood, and who were justly designated "self-made men." The best known of all those now is the late Samuel Budgett, the "successful merchant"; but as that gentleman's life is well known, and has been written in a very popular form, a few notices of him here will be sufficient.

"It was in the quiet little town of Wrington," says his biographer, "that Samuel Budgett received his birth, on the 27th of July, 1794." Thence his parents removed to Backwell; afterwards they removed to Nailsea, and then to Kingswood. "I remember," says Mr. Budgett, "my father and mother taking a shop there in the year 1801"; it was called "the great shop on the Cassy (Causeway)." Two years afterwards this shop at Kingswood was left in the hands of a brother, many years older than himself, and the son of another mother. The family then removed to Coleford, where they opened a small general shop. It was at Coleford, when about the age of ten, that he began to lay the foundation of his habits and fortune, occasioned, it is said, by the picking up of an old horse-shoe and selling it for a penny. At fourteen years of age he left Coleford and was apprenticed to his elder brother at Kingswood. He had by this time saved £30 which he gave to his parents. His brother discharged him after three years' service, assigning as his reason "want of ability." He obtained a situation in Bristol, but after six months his brother recalled him. He finished the term of his apprenticeship, during which time he became a great favourite

with the customers, many imagining that they got better weight from him than from any one else. Three years of his life now follow, during which he is paid as a salaried assistant. Next he is taken into partnership by his brother, and soon afterwards takes a small cottage in a lane opposite to the shop, and is married to a Miss Smith, of Midsomer Norton. It is from this point in his life that his success may be said to have begun. Adopting as a motto, "Business is what it is made to be," the Budgetts threw all their energies into the business—Mr. Samuel beginning to "descry the possibility" of a great wholesale establishment. "A little at a time," says he. "Secure what you have, work it well, make it fruitful, and then push it on a little further, but never stretch out to anything new till all the old is perfectly cultivated." About this time he began to supply small shops in Doynton, Pucklechurch, and other villages. For this purpose he became his own commercial, offering such things as glue, blacking, and such other "small goods" as he might supply without seeming to push into too important a sphere. In this way he plodded on, content, until at last he could supply larger shops in Bath and Bristol. A tide of prosperity was now setting in. The connection rapidly extended, purchases which had been in parcels soon rose to cargoes. Sales which had been in trifles swelled to tons, traveller was added to traveller, journey to journey, till the connection covered the country from Penzance to Birmingham, from Haverfordwest to Wiltshire. The aspect of things at "The Hill" changed, men multiplied, horses multiplied, the premises grew, neat houses for clerks sprang up, and an air of prosperous activity overspread the neighbourhood. The whole of the subsequent history of the firm is one of still greater and continued prosperity. Mr. Samuel Budgett becoming the head of the establishment built himself a substantial house on the site of an old quarry which he bought, and of which some curious stories are told. The house was pleasantly situated on the slope of a hill, commanding an extensive view eastward. Large gates admitted you to the house and grounds, where shrubs and statues adorned a neat lawn. A fountain, sun dial, and an arbour, together with a conservatory and an aviary, added to its charm. The old "poor house," which stood not far

from his dwelling, was purchased by him, pulled down, and the grounds enclosed. Around these grounds and some others, together with the site upon which his own house stood, a high wall was subsequently built, and the enclosure designated "Budgett's Park." Over the park were planted, here and there, bits of shrubbery in which a fawn or two and some sheep found a quiet and pleasant retreat. A magnificent view is seen from the house, stretching away over a rich valley for more than twenty miles; the neighbourhood of Dursley and a monument on Stinchcomb Hill being clearly seen. Here, amidst nearly all the associations of his boyhood, pleasant scenery, and unwearied toil, Samuel Budgett, the successful merchant, lived, prospered, and died.

But, perhaps, one of the most interesting records of a "self-made man" is that of

VICTORY PURDY,

variously known as the "Kingswood Collier" and the "Walking Bible." Victory was born in Bristol in the year 1747. His father, it is said, was one of the first to join himself to the Rev. John Wesley's London Society, and afterwards accompanied Mr. Wesley to Bristol. It appeared, at that time, that there was some hesitation among Mr. Wesley's company as to who should go with him to the latter city. Lots were cast to decide this, and the lot fell upon Purdy. Purdy came to Bristol and continued a long time a faithful helper to Mr. Wesley amid scenes of persecution and suffering. Finally he settled in Bristol and married. When preaching one day at Rangeworthy, he narrowly escaped some rough treatment at the hands of a mob, and hurried off home, glad of his escape with sound limbs. Arriving at home, Purdy found a son, his wife having been confined during his absence, and exclaimed, in honour of his own escape, "His name shall be called Victory." Purdy and his wife struggled on for some time together; but at twelve years of age little Victory was left an orphan and a poor lad, both of his parents having died. Cast upon the world thus, and alone, Victory had early to earn his living and fight his way in life's hard battles. Early he became a collier lad and worked at pit work. He then became

a cooper, and afterwards worked as a day labourer in a stone quarry. Fond of reading and genuinely pious, he acquired some knowledge of the Scriptures, and at twenty-four began to preach. Mr. Wesley then appointed him to a circuit, making him one of his regular ministers. Victory, however, was so exceedingly diffident that he gave up his appointment almost in despair, and returned to manual labour, preaching only as occasion arose. Up to the age of thirty-six his poverty was so great, occasioned by scant wages and the expenses of his family, that he records in his journal his great thankfulness for the kind gift by Mr. Wesley of a suit of his old clothes. Poor and pinched, however, Victory was diligently improving himself. He had by this time acquired a neat handwriting and a large amount of general information, and through this he was enabled to obtain a situation in the counting-house of the steward of the Duke of Beaufort at Kingswood. When forty-five years of age the duke offered to make him manager of the whole of his collieries in Kingswood, but Victory refused, asserting that he could not in any way have anything to do with secular work on Sundays. He continued in the duke's service, however, till he died at the age of seventy-five. During the whole of his life he was incessantly seeking information from persons, books, or things, and thus by diligence acquired a large amount of general and scientific knowledge. Usually his plan was to get a single book at a time and master it, then parting with it he obtained another, and thus step by step advancing till he became acquainted with many subjects. Specially he is said to have had a large stock of scientific knowledge and some acquaintance with the Greek language.

Victory clung to the lay work of his church, and during the fifty years of his life as a preacher he delivered without any reward about three thousand three hundred and fifty sermons, walking to do so twenty-seven thousand seven hundred miles. He read the Bible through forty times; twelve times upon his knees. In one sermon he has been known to quote two hundred passages of Scripture, giving chapter and verse correctly where each might be found. He also composed one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three hymns, and a great variety of miscellaneous pieces in prose and verse.

MR. ABRAHAM FUSSELL.

The epithet, "self-made man," is undoubtedly most applicable to the late Mr. Abraham Fussell, of Warmley. For no man in the neighbourhood made more rapid advances in business, wealth, and force of moral character than did this gentleman. He was born in the parish, and of humble birth, and like most strong healthy young men was fond of a little rough frolic. On one occasion, when about twenty, he was most active at a prize-fight between two boxers—Lucas and Selman, near the "Tennis Court Inn." Mr. Fussell was then, I believe, engaged in the coal works. Subsequently, through the influences exerted among the teachers and others who attended the ministry of the Rev. John Glanville, of the Tabernacle, at Kingswood, he was induced to go there, when a marked change was observed in his conduct. He became a member of the church, and a teacher very much liked in the school. About this time, having married a Miss Gay, he moved from Warmley to a back road in Kingswood called "Made-for-ever," and started a small business on his own account. He then removed to Honey Hill, on the London Road, where his factory now stands. A little shop stood here, where, formerly, a Mr. Hemmings carried on the shoe trade. Mr. Fussell purchased the premises, and, for a time, carried on his business in the old shop. After this he opened a factory in the Old Market Street, Bristol, and then again at Lawrence Hill. Having now got together the materials for manufacturing rivet boots, he built a place on the old premises at Warmley, and removed all his other business into it. It was evident at this time that a large trade could be done, as there were but two competing houses in the rivet trade in Bristol.

Mr. Fussell's managing man was one of those who had been in the warehouse of Messrs. Derham Brothers, Bristol, for about five years, and was practically acquainted with the trade. A trivial circumstance happened between the two, caused a rupture, and the manager left, went to London, became traveller and manager to the brothers John and James Branch, at Old Ford,—then a small concern, but now one of the largest manufactories in London.

Mr. Fussell went on with his business after this in a very quiet and plodding way, daily increasing his substance and respect. His reverence and attendance also for his place of worship became a marked feature in his habits at this time. On one occasion he observed to a neighbour that "he could not be so sociable with some of the members of the old place of worship as he should like to be; and would it be desirable to have another church in the neighbourhood"—led, eventually, to his withdrawal from the Old Tabernacle, and the building a New Congregational Church in the Hanham Lane. Mr. Fussell took a deep interest in the building, was the largest donor, and this beautiful building may truly be said to owe its existence to him.

Four very beautiful villa residences have been built near the factory by Mr. Fussell's sons, and near to his own "Fair View House." Also a large number of cottages at Warmley, and near the works, erected for work-people and others.

Mr. Fussell had a numerous family, and all grew up to manhood apparently very healthy. But the time came when darkness and sickness fell upon that happy home. Sons and daughters, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, who had taken an active interest in the business, one after the other sickened and died. And, at last, Mr. Fussell himself, the indomitable, persevering business man, succumbed to a painful malady—a cancer in the tongue necessitating an operation which caused his death. The widow remains in "Fair View House," with two of her esteemed sons near to cheer her in her sorrow; but in this charming spot she is tempted to say, like Ruth of old, "call it not 'pleasant' or 'Fair,' but call it rather 'Mara'—*Bitter*, for the Lord hath dealt bitterly with me."

MR. HANDEL COSSHAM.

The man most known and the most universally respected in Kingswood as a "self-made man" was the late Mr. Handel Cossam. Among the vast working population of the country his name was ever greeted with cheers; but in the West, in his own neighbourhood, his moral worth and strength of character evoked from men more than a passing sentiment: there was always a feeling present where he was of a strong friend who

desired every one's good, and it was that which drew men towards him with a kind of imperceptible and unconscious profound respect, even often against their own sentiments and views. Indeed, Mr. Cossham's life is another illustration of the fact that a man's moral goodness is stronger than his creeds or his faith. No thoughtful man who has followed his career can but admire his stainless life, his pure motive, and his many good and successful works. And this he will do, and must do, although, perhaps, in spite of many deep convictions that Mr. Cossham was, like many other great and good men, extreme in some of his views. But this is not the business to discuss here, and I crave the reader's indulgence for a passing remark.

Mr. Handel Cossham was born on the 31st of March, 1824, and first saw the light in Fore Street, in the pleasant market town of Thornbury. His early life was spent in the vigorous, healthy manner in which boys disport themselves in a little country town, and he made a thorough acquaintance with the lovely district in the midst of which Thornbury is situated, and imbibed that love of nature which was pre-eminently characteristic of him, and that intense sympathy with the peasantry and with the agricultural labourer.

When sixteen years of age he became a teacher in the Sunday School attached to Thornbury Congregational Chapel, and his labours proved most acceptable, and he soon began to take part in the opening and closing services of the school, sometimes giving an address, and this proved an initiation into the wider religious and educational work which Mr. Cossham carried on until the end of his days. He belonged to a family which had long resided in Thornbury, and his birth took place in the same house and room in which his great grandfather, grandfather, and father had successively entered the world. His father, Mr. Jesse Cossham, was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and was a man of exceptional powers. He was a firm Nonconformist and an ardent Liberal, and the training he gave to his son formed his chief education, and strongly coloured his after life. Some twelve months after the birth of Handel—a name given him by his father to mark his intense appreciation of the genius of the composer of the "Messiah"—his parents removed to Ryeford,

near Stroud, where he was baptised at the old chapel, Stroud, by the Rev. John Burder, M.A., and in 1830 the family returned to Thornbury, where Mr. Jesse Cossham was engaged in business as a builder until his death, which occurred on May 20th, 1887, when he passed away at the age of eighty-seven years, in the room in which he was born; his wife predeceasing him in 1855.

In 1842 Handel was received as a member of the Congregational Church, and two years later, when he was twenty years of age, he preached his first sermon in the chapel at Crossways, near Thornbury, selecting as his text, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ" (Rom. i. 10). In 1864, and again in 1884, he preached in the same chapel and from the same text. He was an intimate friend of the Rev. Benjamin Parsons, of Ebley, and the Rev. Paxton Hood, and all three derived advantage from their mutual acquaintance. As his mind matured, and his judgment ripened, his theological views became enlarged, and it was only in May last that he presided over a meeting at which the "Christly Ethical Church" was organised. The object of this movement is, "to provide a ground on which all who honestly desire to possess the spirit and obey the precepts of Christ may have fellowship, whatever may be their doctrinal opinions." Mr. Cossham very frequently occupied the pulpits in Nonconformist places of worship, and there are few chapels in Bristol and neighbourhood in which he has not at some time or other preached the truths of the gospel.

In 1845 he became a clerk at Yate Colliery, and while there studied mining diligently, working at it almost night and day; and while gaining knowledge and experience he developed great business capabilities, which enabled him to make rapid way. He also acquired skill in handicraft, and also turned his attention to the principles of science, architecture and engineering. He devoted himself to many branches of study, and to none more successfully than that of geology.

Here we may mention that while employed at a colliery at Yate Common he preached and taught among the people on Sundays, and eventually was the means of establishing a British School, the foundation stone of which he laid in September, 1850.

Three years later he was the means of building an Infant School at Pucklechurch; two years afterwards he erected British School-rooms at Parkfield, near one of his collieries; he largely helped to build a British School at Mangotsfield, and another at Staple Hill, and in 1862 he erected a British School at Thornbury. He was keenly interested in Bible Class work, and devoted a large amount of his time to this particular sphere of religious work. Attached to his residence at Weston Park, near Bath, is a spacious room, erected for the purpose, in which he met, every Sunday afternoon, a class of between 150 and 200 persons, and a most instructive and able address was that which he delivered to his pupils on March 30th, when he narrated his personal experiences of the past sixty years.

In the year 1848 he married Miss Elizabeth Wethered, of Little Marlow, and entered into partnership with the father of that lady, Mr. William Wethered, and her three brothers, Messrs. Joseph, Henry, and Edwin Wethered, and commenced colliery enterprise first at Parkfield and afterwards at Kingswood.

About 1875 Mr. Cossham bought the freehold of the minerals of St. George's district, and also purchased the lordship of the manor of Kingswood, and likewise the mineral property of His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, situate in the parish of Stapleton.

In 1879 the firm was formed into a limited company, the Wethered family selling out the interest they had held up to that time. The undertaking almost entirely belonged to Mr. Cossham, as the shares in other hands were limited in number, and were chiefly held by the older members of his staff, together with Mr. Charles S. Wills, a son of the late Mr. H. O. Wills. The collieries are known as the Parkfield, South Parkfield, Speedwell, and Deep Pit, the two former being situate at Pucklechurch, and the two latter at St. George. They have been so developed that they now comprise about 3000 acres of freehold mineral property, yielding a daily output of from 700 to 1000 tons of steam and house coal, and giving employment to an average of 1500 workpeople, and thus enabling Mr. Cossham to speak with pride of the fact that he was the largest employer of labour in the West of England.

In 1882 he was elected a member of the Bath Council, and

was chosen Mayor of the "Queen City of the West," and discharged the duties of his high position with such satisfaction that at the expiration of his term of office there was a general desire that he should be re-elected. He, however, declined the honour, but in the following year (1884) he was again chosen chief magistrate, and won the esteem, respect, and admiration of his fellow-citizens. In connection with the important part he played in local self-government, we may refer to the long and valuable services he rendered to the parish of St. George, in his capacity as member of the Local Sanitary Authority and of the School Board. He was also instrumental in the formation of a Burial Board for Mangotsfield. He was a firm supporter of popular rights, and a determined opponent of non-representative systems and self-elected bodies.

Mr. Cossham was an ardent Radical; or, as some have said, "an out-and-out Rad." It appears that after taking up his residence at Weston Park, near Bath, he proved a tower of strength to the Liberal party in that city, and was the founder of the Bath Young Men's Liberal Association, the forerunner of all the Junior Liberal Associations which now dot the country. In recognition of his services to the Liberal party of Bath, he was, on October 1st, 1886, presented with a testimonial, which took the form of a portrait of himself, executed in oils.

For a seat in the House of Commons he contested Nottingham in 1866, Dewsbury in 1869, Chippenham in 1874, but in each place was defeated. Under the Redistribution of Seats Bill, in 1885, Bristol was divided into four electoral divisions; Mr. Cossham was selected as the Liberal candidate for Bristol East. His Conservative opponent was Mr. J. Broad-Bissell, who sustained an overwhelming defeat, the figures being:—

Cossham	-	-	-	-	-	4647
Bissell	-	-	-	-	-	2383
						<hr/>
Liberal majority	-	-	-	-	-	2264

In addition to his many other public offices, he was a member of the Gloucestershire County Council, having been returned unopposed in January, 1889, as one of the representatives of St

George. It was no uncommon thing on his part to take part in a debate in the House, speak at a Council meeting, be present at one of the meetings at the St. George's Parochial offices, attend to business matters at Kingswood or at his offices, Midland Road, St. Philip's, and address a Liberal meeting, all within the space of twenty-four hours, and his energy seemed really inexhaustible.

The work, however, began to tell on the health of Mr. Cossham, and at a meeting of the St. George's Local Board, held on April 2nd, Mr. Cossham made known his intention to retire from the Board, in consequence of his numerous other engagements. In the course of an able speech he referred to the great progress made by the parish, remarking that when he came into the parish, in 1861—he was speaking commercially—twenty-nine years ago, there were 8000 inhabitants. Now they had grown to four times that number, and their population was something like 30,000 or 34,000; the rating was something under £20,000; now it was over £75,000. Hardly a parish in England in regard to population and rateable value had grown faster than St. George, and he could not but hope the future would be equally satisfactory. He had only been a member of the Board twelve years, coming into it in 1878, five years after it was first formed, and he thought he could say with perfect truth that his connection with it had been exceedingly pleasant to himself. He must congratulate the Board on having a series of men who had devoted themselves to their duties with earnestness and zeal, and he could not help thinking that in the future St. George would furnish men who would take the different departments of public work in a way that would be honourable to them and beneficial to the neighbourhood.

One of the most interesting events in Mr. Cossham's life was that in which he presented publicly "Cossham Hall," as a building for general uses to the inhabitants of Thornbury, his native town. This took place on December 20th, 1888, in a meeting under the presidency of Mr. Stafford Howard, of Thornbury Castle. Mr. Cossham ever retained a deep affection for the place of his birth, a feeling which found expression in this gift. In the presentation he said :

I have left the use of the hall entirely in the hands of the trustees and the committees, who may, and I hope will, use it frequently for all purposes that will, in any way, benefit the town. I hope it may never become a centre of sectarian narrowness, or party animosity, but that all sects, all parties, and all efforts to enlighten the people may here find common ground and a rallying centre. May God bless the old town. Hallowed and sacred memories crowd my mind as I now hand over to you a small token of my best wishes for your future peace, prosperity, and progress; and when my voice is silent, as it soon will be, in death, and my personal name has passed away, may "Cossham Hall" help to remind you that it is possible "though dead yet to speak" to generations now unborn, by a memorial raised during life, rather than by monuments raised by loving hands after death.

Early in life Mr. Cossham had made it his settled purpose to do good, or as he said, "all the good I can, to all the people I can, in every place I can, throughout life." Hence we find him pursuing this purpose persistently. It was, however, not only his life's work amongst his own people, but as the member for the masses that he won the remarkable tribute paid to his memory on the day of burial, when that vast assemblage, numbering from 40,000 to 50,000, gathered in and around the Avon View Cemetery. It was not only unprecedented at St. George, but there has been seen nothing equal to it as a display of feeling on the part of the people on the occasion of a funeral in Bristol itself probably since that of Lord Raglan, after his death in the Crimea, when his body was landed on the Bristol quays, and there was a public procession through the city some thirty-five years ago. Anticipating that there would be a great gathering, numbers went out from the city by rail and road early in the morning, and though the funeral was fixed for three o'clock, some persons began to assemble before eleven. After mid-day there was a great exodus from the city, and for two hours throngs of people streamed along the footways from the Old Market, West Street, Lawrence Hill, and Moorfields to St. George. It was interesting to note that these throngs consisted almost entirely of the working classes—men, their wives, and children—while the very infants in arms must have numbered many hundreds. A service of fourteen trams and breaks of the Tramway Company, specially arranged for the

St. George's section, failed to cope with the demands of the public, and in the last hour the hundreds of vehicles got repeatedly blocked at sections of the road. St. George itself, with a population of 30,000, contributed equally large numbers.

The honourable gentleman's death occurred as follows—About eleven o'clock on Wednesday, April 23rd, he proceeded to the House of Commons, and went into the library for the purpose of writing some letters. While Mr. Cossham was so engaged, Mr. Benbow, the assistant librarian, saw him fall back in his chair, and he at once went to the hon. member's assistance. Mr. Cossham soon revived, and, at Mr. Benbow's suggestion, lay down on one of the couches in the recesses of the upper lobby. Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Woodall having heard of the occurrence, went to see whether they could be of any service, and they remained with the invalid whilst Mr. Benbow informed Chief Inspector Horsley of what had taken place. Dr. Bond, divisional surgeon at King Street, was at once sent for, and, after an examination, he recommended Mr. Cossham to go to bed at once. Accordingly, with the aid of Mr. Horsley, he descended to the Palace Yard, and proceeded in a cab to the National Liberal Club. Mr. Bond, who accompanied him to the club, assisted him to reach the lift, by means of which he ascended to the first bedroom floor, where his room was situated. On emerging from the lift, Mr. Cossham asked the valet in attendance to provide a quieter room than the one he had previously occupied. The request was at once complied with, and Dr. Bond having seen the patient into bed, wrote out a prescription, which was sent to an adjacent chemist to be made up, and gave instructions for hot-water bottles to be placed in the bed. The remedies seemed to give some ease, and Dr. Bond left with an intimation that he would send round his assistant to take his place. Before going away he told the valet to look in upon the invalid every few minutes. The valet paid several visits to the bedroom, and found the hon. member apparently going on well. On the fifth visit, however, Mr. Cossham seemed more restless. His head rolled from side to side, and his speech was more or less incoherent. The valet went out into the corridor, with the

intention of raising an alarm, when he met Dr. Bond's assistant, who returned to the bedroom with him, and was present a few minutes later, when the patient expired.

THE FUNERAL.

Though, in accordance with his own wish, Mr. Cossham was to be buried at Bristol, and all the more marked expressions appertaining to the ceremony were confined solely to the sister city, signs were not wanting in Bath of the fact that the closing scenes in connection with a public man's career were taking place. Some of the tradespeople partially closed their premises during the morning as a mark of respect.

Therefore on Monday, April 28th, in accordance with his own wish, his remains were committed to the grave at St. George, in the Avon View Cemetery, in the midst of a district the parochial life of which had grown with his growth, and advanced under his watchful guidance and strenuous efforts. The corpse had been previously brought from London, under the care of the Great Western Railway Company, and deposited at the Weston Park residence, Bath.

The hour now having drawn nigh for the sepulture, the keenest and most subdued interest was manifested amongst all classes of the community. Shortly after noon the body was carried out of the lecture-room, and placed upon the mourning car, an open one, drawn by four horses, the dead march in "Saul" being played the while on the organ. The floral tributes were nicely arranged around the coffin, literally lending to the car the appearance of a handsome bower of beautiful exotic flowers and foliage. As the time of departure approached, the car was taken down to the main entrance to Weston Park, where it was joined by the chief mourners, who were conveyed in three carriages. In the first, Mr. Cossham's own conveyance, were Mrs. Cossham, Mr. J. Wethered, and Mr. Charles Wethered. The next contained Mr. E. Wethered, Alderman J. Murch, J.P., D.L., Mr. John Stone, and Mr. William C. Jolly; while in the third rode Messrs. Sommerville (2), Mr. J. E. Henshaw, and Mr. T. B. Silcock. Punctually at half-past twelve the procession moved off at a slow pace down the lane, and by this time the assembly of the

public had attained such proportions as to thickly line the whole length of it. In the high road the concourse was even denser.

At Bryant's Hill the officials and workmen employed at the Kingswood and Parkfield Collieries, numbering about 1,500, took up position at the head of the procession, amongst the officials being Dr. Henry Grace (Workmen's Medical Man), Messrs. J. Henshaw (Secretary), C. S. Wills (Director), J. Burgess (Salesman), J. Sherborne (Manager of Parkfield Collieries), J. Spark (Manager of Kingswood Collieries), G. V. Preston (Cashier at Parkfield), H. Lucas, J. Sparks, Jun. (Assistant Manager at Kingswood), W. L. Helps (General Salesman), A. Smith, S. Humphries, J. Rich, C. Hole, J. Hole, J. Pembery, S. Brookman (Montpelier dépôt), B. Brookman, G. Rudman, J. Stock, S. Smith, Sen., S. Smith, Jun., H. Bright, J. Hooper, F. Mortimer, Fred Clarke, and F. Morse. As the immense procession proceeded slowly towards the cemetery, the scene was a most imposing one. Crowds of people had congregated on either side of the road, and every possible coign of vantage was occupied to the utmost capacity by those anxious to get a glimpse of the passing spectacle.

Following the body of miners, whose faces betokened the sorrow they felt at the loss of their employer, were the walking deputations, and then came the open hearse drawn by four horses, and as the coffin, covered with exquisite wreaths, passed, the spectators lifted their hats in silent respect. After the carriages containing the chief mourners, came Mr. Henry Bennett's carriage, followed by the Mayor, who wore his chain of office. The deputation from the Liberal Association of the deceased gentleman's constituency were succeeded by the Members of Parliament, Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., and Sir Joseph Weston, the officers of the Bristol Liberal Federation, the deputation from the Liberal Club, the deputations from Bristol South, Bristol North, and Bristol West, and the other deputations. A number of private carriages brought up the rear, and some idea of the length of the procession will be obtained when it is stated that it occupied nearly three quarters of an hour in passing a given spot. As the cemetery was approached the crowds became more dense, and it was estimated that there could not have been less than 50,000 spectators on the entire route.

About twenty minutes past three o'clock the open car containing the coffin was driven slowly through the cemetery gates, and a lengthened pause ensued while the various carriages containing mourners and friends set down their occupants, and this interval enabled spectators to note the wealth of wreaths which almost concealed the coffin from view. At a given signal the coffin was removed from the car, and soon after half-past three o'clock the procession commenced its slow progress towards the grave, the corpse being borne by a number of the overmen engaged at the Kingswood and Parkfield pits. The officiating ministers were the Revs. U. R. Thomas (who also attended as a deputation from the Peace Society), and F. W. Stanley (Trim Street Unitarian Chapel, Bath), and the introductory sentences of the burial service were alternately read by these gentlemen.

Space forbids me to write more of this self-made man; and I leave the reader to muse over the life in the closing words said at his grave:—

“He was a man of the people, and he died honoured and regarded by the people. A multitude of voices alike of the needy he relieved, of the oppressed he championed, and of the comrades with whom he loyally worked, may be heard saying, “Blessed are the dead.” Benedictions like spring showers fall upon his grave; but shall we not pause to hear another and a more completely satisfying word—a still small voice, sweeter and louder than the thunder of applause—“I heard a voice from heaven saying, write, Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. They rest from their labours, and their works do follow them.”

Now the labourer's task is o'er,
 Now the battle day is past,
 Now upon the further shore
 Lands the voyager at last.
 Father, in Thy gracious keeping
 Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

There the tears of earth are dried,
 There its hidden things are clear,
 There the work of life is tried
 By a juster judge than here.
 Father, in Thy gracious keeping
 Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.*

* Rev. U. R. Thomas.

It must also be equally interesting, I think, to observe that there are now living in Kingswood several gentlemen to whom the designation, "self-made men," may be justly applied. Beginning in a humble way of business, by perseverance they have steadily advanced; made wonderful progress upward, striding over yawning chasms in the social scale, adding apparently, day by day, not only wealth, but the higher embellishments of mind. Surely these men deserve our highest praise. I think it is Sydney Smith who has said, "that it is natural in every man to wish for distinction; and that praise, in spite of all false philosophy, is sweet to every human heart." How true those words are most of us have felt more or less in life. When men's spirits throb heavily within them, and when they feel only half assured of some advance, or some step upward in life's great battle, a little praise unexpectedly coming upon them is felt like the small rain falling upon thirsty flowers in hot summer, refreshing and reviving. But how much more must this be felt where there has been great and unwearied efforts put forth, mighty energies evolved; and where brain and sinew, like a fully strung bow, have been strained continually to their utmost power, in order to make "a point" in life. Add to this also the immense social chasms over which such may have had to stride—from a comparative obscurity in life to that of publicity, honour, and position; and observe further, the necessary skill in all this required to clear themselves of social enmities and jealousies, which cling around a prosperous man like breakers around a gallant ship in dangerous seas. Add all this, I say, and remember that a business man after all is like other men, and must keep to his own "line of things," "guiding his horse obedient to the customs of the course"; and we must own, I think, especially as eminence can only be the lot of the few, and still fewer of those who thus lowly begin, that commendation cannot but be sweet to them, a duty from us, while at the same time they deserve our loudest and most hearty applause. "There is a perennial nobleness," says Carlyle, "in work, and he who bends himself with free valour against his task will see doubt, desire, sorrow, remorse, indignation, despair itself, shrink murmuring far off into their caves." But Carlyle might have added

a countless number of other rich treasures, besides those merely mental, to whose right the valorous and noble worker may attain; wealth, promotion, honour, and education are his—his by right, his by virtue, and his by merit; for “it is the hand of the diligent,” and his hand only, that truly “maketh rich.”

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of Time.



CHAPTER XXXV.

MODERN PLACES OF WORSHIP.

HOLY TRINITY.

THE first objects of attention usually observed by strangers in Kingswood are its numerous places of worship. Within an almost incredibly recent date ten commodious chapels and churches and several good schools have been built. Most of these are also exceedingly handsome structures, and equal both in architectural taste and comfort to those usually erected in our large towns and cities. Conspicuously among these, and situated on the top of the hill, and also the oldest of the modern buildings, is Holy Trinity, built about the year 1821. It is a plain but neat building, with square tower, having also a very clean appearance from its smooth freestone walls and buttresses. In the tower is a small clock and two bells (ting-tang), which I think ought to be taken away, and a larger clock and good peal of bells substituted—more in accordance with its large tower, prominent position, and the taste of the times. The churchyard also could be more neatly arranged, and made an attractive adjunct to the church. The interior of the building is tasteful and roomy, seating about a thousand persons, and is exceedingly light and cheerful. A small but sweetly-toned organ stands in the gallery, which, when formerly played, was invariably accompanied by the sweeter strains of a violin. The sexton of the church, a Mr. Willis, being a very able musician and composer of music, thus helping in the choir. He was also considered a very clever sculptor, and won considerable local renown in that art. Most of the “headstones” now in the churchyard were wrought by him. For many years the Rev. John Gaskin, now, or late of St. Cuthbert’s, Bedford, was incumbent of Holy Trinity, and did great good in the neighbourhood. He was highly respected by

all classes, Church and Dissent, rich and poor, all spoke of him in no measured terms of commendation for his kind manner and Christian character.

Another highly respected vicar, whose name is cherished by the most sturdy Nonconformists as richly as by those who are of the Established Church, was the late W. Sandford. He was many years at Holy Trinity, labouring chiefly among the poor. The widow and orphan found in him not only the helping hand, but the bracing and sympathizing spirit, cheering like summer showers the drooping and withered life. Mr. Sandford was a living illustration of St. James's ideal life, of "pure and undefiled religion that keepeth itself unspotted from the world."

The present minister, the Rev. J. Teague, is also highly esteemed. He is characterized as an extempore preacher of no common ability.

THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

Twenty-four years after Holy Trinity was opened, the Wesleyans built their handsome chapel on the "Hill," removing the congregation from the "old school" as already observed. This was done, it is said, through the energetic and benevolent spirit of Mr. S. Budgett. "Among his benefactions to Kingswood," says his biographer, "stands the noble chapel close by which he lies. He did not raise it from his own funds, but he raised it by stimulating others to combine with him in his gifts and labours. He would have it, he said, and he would have it free from debt. In Bristol, in Bath, in London, in Liverpool, he begged, and was rebuked, and was successful." His last effort was called the "winding-up" meeting. Said Mr. Budgett, "we must have a great gathering to finish." Mr. Daniel Flook then proposed "that they should bring the people from Bristol, pay their fare to and fro, and give them a tea for *one* shilling." This was agreed to, and the matter put into the hands of Mr. Flook himself, whose magic wand produced all that was necessary. "Tea" was provided for 1,200 people; fifty pounds was paid for cab-hire and other conveyances; and when the accounts were read at the public meeting, to the surprise of all, the chapel was

out of debt and twenty-six pounds in hand towards a schoolroom.

Outside, this building has nothing very attractive about it; being rough-cast with some dingy coating of plaster, it has a dark, heavy, and sombre look, as though it had long been exposed to smoke. In the inside, however, is a most agreeable contrast. The building is lofty, and coloured, or painted, with a pleasant soft tint. The fronts of the galleries, which pass round three sides of the chapel, are relieved with white and gold. Neat ornamental gasaliers also hang from these. It is seated with pews (boxes) throughout, to accommodate about 1,000 persons, the seats being topped with polished mahogany. Behind the pulpit is placed a large organ and seats for the choir, in a neat chamber. This recess is ornamented with a row of free-stone pillars bearing the "book-rests" and a screen of scarlet cloth. Marble tablets are placed on the walls attesting the deaths of some eminent Wesleyan ministers, and also of the late "successful merchant." Altogether, inside the building has an elegant appearance. Behind the chapel, and built after the same style, is the Wesleyan day school; another neat building, costing about eight hundred pounds, and erected also by Mr. S. Budgett. A little behind this again is the infant school, built after the same model, and, I believe, also by one of the sons of the same gentleman.

Both the chapel and schools are off the high road, and cannot be seen to advantage from it. It must be remembered, however, that Kingswood is "a labyrinth of lanes—turning, winding, intersecting, and branching in all directions"; so much so, that William Arthur says: "If a stranger set out to walk three miles in the neighbourhood without a guide he would probably spend a day in the journey." You must get in a lane, therefore, to see the above buildings.

WHITEFIELD TABERNACLE.

The principal building in Kingswood, and that which claims the greatest attention as to its architectural features or other attractions, is the Whitefield Memorial Tabernacle. This is, indeed, a noble building. It is built in the Gothic style, of hewn

stone taken from quarries in the neighbourhood, and relieved with freestone. The front, which faces the south, has two towers with stairs leading to the gallery; a large central mullioned window and portico being the principal features in this part of the building. Of the whole structure the front is least effective, having somewhat a squat appearance, through the sloping ground and narrow approach to it. The roof is supported by a double row of columns, over which are spanned some exceedingly beautiful and symmetrical arches. A large and handsome white stone pulpit, tastefully sculptured and lined with crimson cloth, greatly adds to the beauty of the church. Behind this is constructed a neat organ chamber, over the minister's vestry, in which is placed the organ which formerly stood in the old Tabernacle close by. For many years the Bridges family took great interest in the music and other matters connected with this church, Mr. Joseph Bridges, who died some years ago, being highly esteemed by the friends of the children for his musical ability and his zeal in sustaining the music. The Sunday School during his time numbered seven hundred children. He died deeply regretted. A brother of this good man still, I believe, continues his interest in the church, living near and owning the park, &c., of the late Mr. S. Budgett. It is owing to the constant attention and regular attendance of this family chiefly, it has been said, that the congregation of this church has been enabled for so many years to "discourse sweet music," there being usually a good choir kept up through their example. The building seats about a thousand persons, and could be easily made to seat an additional five hundred by means of side galleries. The seats are of modern pattern; the walls plastered with cement, stone colour, and have a hard, clean, and solid appearance. From its lofty proportions and stone aisles all noise made by the worshippers is quickly hushed, adding greatly to the comfort of devotion and to the solemnity of the worship. Altogether, it is an elegant building, and reflects greatly the taste and good sense of that highly educated and evangelical minister, the late Rev. John Glanville, through whose indefatigable energies it was erected. I cannot understand why it is that no monument, tablet, or record whatever, has ever been set up to

mark the unwearied energies of this good man. Mr. Glanville spent his best energies for Kingswood; and no man since his time has surpassed him in eloquence, evangelical vigour, or profound erudition. He was a companion and sound adviser to the rich, and a friend to the poor. His nearest neighbour, the "successful merchant," was his intimate friend. The incumbent, Mr. Gaskin, Mr. West, the Moravian minister, and Mr. Corvosso, the Wesleyan minister, all found in him a sympathising heart and friendly help whenever needed. It is said also, that after Mr. Glanville left the neighbourhood and went to Dursley, his concern for the people of Kingswood was so great that it had a great deal to do with his early death. Has all this been forgotten at Kingswood? Is the fragrant memory of this good man to be allowed to waste itself on the "desert air"; and is his active life, rich with good deeds, to be buried for ever in oblivion? Shame upon Kingswood if it be so, and doubly shamed should be his flock!

ZION CHAPEL.

Another, and possibly the next largest place of worship in Kingswood, is Zion Chapel, belonging to the Free Methodists, built, I think, in the year 1854. It seats about 800 persons. Standing on an elevated part of the "Hill," it has a bold and substantial appearance. The front especially, being painted a good stone colour, is a conspicuous object to strangers, and usually elicits some observation from them when coming the first time to Kingswood. It contrasts curiously with the heavy-looking appearance of the Wesleyan Chapel opposite and facing it at a little distance southward. It lays back a little way from the High Street, the land between being utilized as burial-ground—which is a pity, seeing how necessary it is in these days of rapid crowding to have open spaces for health and away from the dead. The chapel was built from plans supplied, but no architect was employed. The building committee appointed Mr. D. Flook as overseer or manager, and under his guidance the chapel was built. Several improvements have been suggested and carried out since its erection. The windows in the front have been raised, and the interior fitted with side galleries.

The cnapel is an ornament on the Hill, and will be a lasting monument to the great good done in the neighbourhood by Mr. Flook, and to that of those who were like-minded with himself. "He is a good man, and hath built us a sanctuary," is again echoed in Kingswood. A fine piece of land adjoins this building, very suitable, it is said, from its central position, as a site for a town or other public hall. It is possible that it will soon be covered with houses.

THE MORAVIAN CHAPEL.

These people built their new chapel in the year 1857. It is in the form of a cross, and seats about 200 persons. In the gables are rose windows, which, with the freestone mouldings, lines, &c., in the walls, greatly add to its neatness. The little chapel lies south of the High Street, a coachway leading to it. The new chapel is built on the site of the old, and on the spot where stood Mr. Tippet's house, wherein the first meetings were held. For more than one hundred and twenty years the Gospel has been quietly expounded on this secluded little spot. The first sermon was preached in Mr. Tippet's house, by John Cennick, of Reading, 1737—then an associate of the Rev. G. Whitefield. There is a small collection of hymns, known as Cennick's hymns, some of which are very beautiful. Formerly these hymns were much used and highly prized, but now are eliminated from nearly all our hymn books; there is one, however, which still appears in most collections, viz. :—

Thou dear Redeemer, dying Lamb,
We love to hear of Thee;
No music like Thy charming name,
Nor half so sweet can be.

A day school is carried on in connection with the church with success. The Rev. J. Mellowes is the present minister.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

A considerable church, also, and the next in order of importance, or rather the fifth of the principal places of worship,

is the Congregational Church in the Hanham Lane, built some years since by a few worshippers who were together, chiefly an offshoot of the Whitefield Memorial Tabernacle. After the erection of the new building and the departure of the Rev. John Glanville, the congregation could not settle to the new state of things. Accordingly, when Mr. A. Fussell started the idea of another church a large number seemed inclined to follow the new movement. The church was built, with what result we see to-day. One feature of the two chapels is pleasing—the large number of young people who attend the Sunday schools. This was always a pleasing association with the old Tabernacle, as many as seven hundred children, at one time, being in the school. It is to be hoped that this feature will be continued with both churches. This chapel has lately been re-painted, and made most attractive and comfortable, under the fostering care of its present pastor, the Rev. J. Belsher, who is a zealous worker and temperance advocate. The church was built in the year 1868.

BOURNE CHAPEL.

Forty-nine years ago the Primitive Methodists built a small chapel at Two-Mile Hill. This was the first chapel built in what is now called by them, the Kingswood and three Bristol Circuits; it was a small affair and is now occupied by the Salvation Army. They have recently built a splendid chapel on the Hill, called after their founder, "Bourne." They have also added school and class-rooms. The chapel has a bold substantial appearance, is very commodious, and is one of the best religious properties in the neighbourhood. The prosperity of this religious denomination in their circuits about Kingswood during forty years has been remarkable. A neat chapel has been built at Warmley Hill; another at Oldland Common. At Mangotsfield village, a chapel has been built to seat 300; another at Pucklechurch village. In Shortwood and Staple Hill are two chapels recently built by them; also in each of the districts of Fishponds, Rose Green, Eastville, Whitehall, and Barton Hill, these persevering people have built new chapels. In "Air-Balloon Hill," the old chapel has been pulled down and a new one built; the

whole, with the school premises at the rear, costing £2,000. From the little chapel at Two-Mile Hill, built in 1841, have sprung three circuits, thirty preaching stations, twenty established schools, besides the erection of the numerous chapels I have recorded.

Several other large churches might be described and many other things said of them, and also of those already noticed otherwise, and more fully perhaps than that which we have transcribed; but as the end desired here is not so much to give a minute description of anything, as it is to show briefly a "bird's-eye view" of the whole of Kingswood, as it was and is, enough, I think, has been said for the purpose, and the half-dozen churches chosen above are ample illustrations.

CHARACTER OF PEOPLE, &c.

Simultaneously with the numerous churches and chapels, there sprung up in Kingswood a number of modern houses whose names, whether of streets or of single houses, are seen upon a little examination to be exceedingly characteristic of the people. An old adage says: "A straw will indicate the way of the wind!" Men are certainly known by their garb, and a style of dress will often indicate the "leaning of the mind." Nor is this less seen in names, whether of persons, places, or things. The "Fox and Goose" are not more suggestive than "Primrose Villa," the "Laurels," or "Daisy Bank." "Gibbet Patch" or "Cut-throat Lane" settle our conceptions at once as to their associations. So when we see or hear of suggestive or aristocratic names constantly recurring, and attached to buildings, as they are on the "Hill" at Kingswood, the natural conclusion is, that there is a principle beyond the surface indicative somewhat of the character of the people. In other words, the people of Kingswood hang out signs to show they are not a little ambitious; but then it should be remembered, on the other side, that there are certain traits of character more essential, and absolutely necessary indeed, under certain circumstances, and must be possessed in order to wrench off the immoral and degrading accretions of ages, such as those which had been growing so long at Kingswood. From darkness to

light, and from scenes of wretchedness and misery in those times, to these of peace and prosperity which we now see, were no mean steps to take, and needed strength of will, purposes strong, and a growing ambition also to attain their desired end. There is no doubt, moreover, but that for a long while the steady religious teaching begun by Whitefield and Wesley had been constantly developing this trait of character, suggesting many new ideas which operated in producing new principles of action, finally leading to the improved condition of things which we now see. In fixing the following very high-sounding names to their buildings, therefore, the people of Kingswood have an excuse, and, if thought a little ambitious, must be forgiven. There are Bellevue Villas, Richmond Terrace, Belgrave Terrace, Ducie Parade, Lorne Terrace, Byron Place, Claremont Place, Kensington Place, Portland Place, Windsor Place, Lansdown Place, and others also equally significant. Doubtless any other names would have suited these houses just as well, and would have been, perhaps, more in accordance with their style and surrounding associations; but a considerable pleasure of the owner or builder might therefore have been cut off; for, although you may call a thing by what name you choose, and the thing itself is not altered by it, yet nevertheless the name alters very materially our sentiments or mind in respect to it. Simple names, therefore, afford us pleasure.

Another significant trait of character in the Kingswood people is that of contentedness. It may seem strange to reconcile this with the preceding statements, but it is so. Enough has been taught them apparently to show that "they exist for a purpose high enough to give meaning to life," and this, properly understood, gives contentment, and, at the same time, gives and supports a genuine inspiration. I do not say this is true in every case, but the majority of Kingswood people are a church-going people, and, if not all professedly religious, seem to have been sufficiently influenced by it so as to give a colouring to their general conduct.* Conspicuously is this contentment seen among the poor; even where there is great poverty there is an honest struggling up-

* I am writing of the native population.

ward and forward, without the miserable pining and whining which we often witness. Indeed, in almost every cottage there are the same signs of neatness, cleanness, and happy contentment:—

The white-washed wall, the nicely-sanded floor;
The varnish'd clock that clicks behind the door;
The chest contrives a double debt to pay,
A bed at night, a chest of drawers by day;
The pictures plac'd for ornament and use,
The twelve good rules, the Royal game of goose;
And broken teacups, wisely kept for show,
Rang'd o'er the chimney glisten in a row.

Contented toil, and hospitable care,
And kind connubial tenderness are there;
And piety, with wishes plac'd above,
And steady loyalty, and faithful *Love*.*

The further prominent marks in the character of the Kingswood people are noticeable in their steady perseverance and ploddingly industrious pursuits. Whatever else may be said of them, it cannot be urged that they are wanting in energy or perseverance. Neither can it be said that they are lacking in habits of close application or hard work. There is no doubt, indeed, but that during the struggles of the last forty years the people of this place have caught the true spirit of thrift, self-help, or the feeling and consciousness that such was within the compass of their own powers, arming them with new weapons for every new enterprise, and constantly adding strength for the still more arduous work that lay before them. It is ever thus where there are any signs of life or progress—the vitality before the growth, the infolded energies relaxing before the manifestations.

Men thus convinced are “lords of their own hands,” laugh at difficulties, defy all opposition, and scorn at the twaddle of

* G's. D. V.

misfortune. Tennyson has beautifully portrayed this spirit in his Enid's song :

Turn, Fortune, turn thy wheel and lower the proud ;
Turn thy wild wheel thro' sunshine, storm, and cloud ;
Thy wheel and thee we neither love nor hate.

Turn, Fortune, turn thy wheel with smile or frown ;
With that wild wheel we go not up or down ;
Our hoard is little, but our *hearts are great*.

Smile and we smile the lords of many lands ;
Frown and we smile, the lords of our own hands.
For man is man and *master* of his fate.

Turn, turn thy wheel above the staring crowd ;
Thy wheel and thou are shadows in the cloud ;
Thy wheel and thee we neither love nor hate.

STYLE OF HOUSES.

Of the style of houses I shall have but little to say. They are miscellaneous in variety, and built upon all sorts of plans. In the last few years greater attempts have been made at uniformity, and some handsome villas, elegant streets, and neat rows of cottages and shops of a more pleasing style have been erected. A large number of dwelling-houses also are being turned into shops. Especially is this the case after the old "Causeway," which is therefore being steadily flanked on both sides with rows of buildings. Indeed, there is every prospect at present that continuous rows of houses will soon line the high road all the way to Bristol. In the meantime, the little village of Warmley, with its railway accommodation, is steadily pushing itself upwards on the same road, showing altogether, by not a few indications, that ere long there will be seen large and flourishing neighbourhoods on all sides of the old highway from Warmley to Bristol.

Indeed, persons who have followed me in my narrative must have observed that nearly all over the area formerly known as the "Forest" there are remarkable signs of life and prosperity.

Perhaps in all England there is not a spot whose present aspect contrasts with its past more curiously than does that known here as Kingswood Forest. Once, as we have seen, a Royal forest connected with other forests of miles in extent; then, more select as a Royal chase; then, a bone of contention between lords of the manors and coal masters; and, lastly, a wilderness overrun with beings more like fiends than anything else, which no laws could subdue and no man could tame. But now we see it with a peaceful, law-abiding, industrious, and contented people; taking pleasure in labour, becoming more and more zealous in education, and mostly delighting in religious ordinances.

Surely there is a Providence in all this! Nay, can we not trace in it the hand of Him who "led them by the right way," bringing them out of darkness and the shadow of death and breaking their bands in sunder?

Meanwhile, since I have been engaged in writing this narrative, the Bristol Tramway Company have obtained sanction for constructing a Cable Tramway to the top of the hill at Kingswood, at a cost of £40,000; a cable lift, which, I suppose, will finish at the bottom of the hill, at the "World's End" Inn; or be continued over the hill which lies between it and the present Tramway terminus at Don John's Cross, a distance of nearly two miles. This will be a tramway of much larger stretch than the celebrated Cable Tramway on Highgate Hill, in the north of London. Surely, a great boon to the inhabitants of this hilly neighbourhood. The scampering and tearing of horses to pieces will be unheard of, while the quiet glide of a journey for a mile or so will be esteemed as a treat, and highly prized by all classes of the community. These Cable Tramways are almost noiseless. They are worked by a strong cable which runs under the centre of the track, and which is kept in continuous motion by an engine stationed on the highest point of elevation. It is simply a wire rope passing round a horizontal wheel at both ends of the incline—one line "pays outward" to the bottom of the hill and then becomes the returning line "paying inwards." The tram-car has a "grabber" which passes down through a continuous slot or groove in the centre of the track. The conductor, by means of a lever, moves the "grabber" to

clutch the cable which, being already in motion, carries it with the car along the track. A stop is instantly occasioned by releasing the clutch on the cable.

The year 1890 will be a memorable year in Kingswood—it having obtained from the authorities in that year sanction to elect an “Urban Board,” drawn from a district described by the County Council. This Board has been duly elected, and are busy carrying out various improvements in the neighbourhood. As this is the first Local Board sanctioned for Kingswood, I deem it a matter for permanent record, and trust the names will be handed down to posterity as memorials of the great good they may be able to effect. The names of the gentlemen who were elected to form the

FIRST LOCAL BOARD
OF
KINGSWOOD AND DISTRICT
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

President of the Board—J. T. HOWES, Esq.

J. T. HOWES, Esq.,	A. J. BRIDGES, Esq.,
PHILIP FUSSELL, Esq.,	W. FRY, Esq.,
JOSEPH HASKINS, Esq.,	B. HARRIS, Esq.,
ARTHUR PEACOCK, Esq.,	F. LEAR, Esq.,
W. D. STRANGE, Esq.,	S. BEVAN, Esq.,
S. BURCHILL, Esq.,	W. J. BEVAN, Esq.,
A. ELLERY, Esq.,	T. ANSTEY, Esq.,
H. ILES, Esq.,	S. F. ANDREWS, <i>Clerk.</i>

CONCLUSION.

But I must now hasten on to bring my story to a close. I have sketched briefly one of those places which was possibly thought to be by many writers worth only a passing glance. I have thought differently, and have written more fully. I have done so not for vulgar admiration, nor for any other motive than

that I believe its story may be useful. It was a melancholy incident that suggested it, for Kingswood besides having an ancient history as a forest, like all colliery districts, has been the scene of many dreadful sights through the accidents in the pits. Twenty-five years ago, while passing this neighbourhood, there came out of a lane a horse and cart containing the dead body of a man just killed in a pit. He was laid on his back and a sack thrown over him. Curiosity led me to follow the cart to the house where the deceased was being conveyed. About ten yards from the house the cart stopped, and one of the men went ahead to break the news, he said. I went behind him. On knocking at the door, I observed the family—the wife of the dead man, two little girls, and an aged couple—were at breakfast. “I am come to tell you some bad news,” said the man with the cart. “What!” said the young wife rising quickly from her seat. “Bad news,” said the man again, “but don’t be alarmed.” “My husband’s killed!” said the young wife, screaming, having caught sight of the cart sideways through the window; suddenly she rushed to the door, and before another word could be spoken fled up the road and fainted near the feet of her dead husband. The scene that followed I cannot describe; the words “gone,” or “dead,” or “killed,” mingled with the sobs and groans and murmurings of many people who had quickly gathered around, added greatly to the distress. The body was brought to the cottage, lifted out of the cart, and laid upon the clean sanded floor. Meanwhile the widow and the two little girls, orphans, and grandfather and grandmother, were all bathed in tears. “Is he really gone? Oh, it cannot be!” exclaimed the young wife. But thus it was; “Tom,” her husband, had that morning gone cheerfully to his work, got into the cage, the rope had broken, precipitating Tom and two others to the bottom of the shaft, killing them instantly.

Oh, Nancy, lass! Well may you weep
For the brother you have lost to-day;
Tears should my burning eyeballs steep,
But my heart seems turned to clay;
My very brain is numb as stone—
Can our Tom be killed and we alone?

Oh, Nance ! if but my tears would flow,
They might wash the ache from my heart ?
But only wives so widowed know,
What it is to love and part ;
To feel that the husband, cold and dead,
Has paid with his blood for our daily bread !

Killed as the cage went down the shaft,
Through the snap of a faulty link !
Mercy ! how it comes crushing down
On the top of my own poor brain !
And every sense seems to reel and swim,
To think of a world which holds not him.*

It was this accident principally that led me to make a few historical notes of the place.

What the whole area of Kingswood Forest will be a hundred years hence none can say. But if the increase of houses continue in it during that time, only after the same rate as at the present time, it will be covered with large towns. There are many signs, indeed, that there will be a continuance of the prosperity for which it has lately been characterised, and also that an increasing proportion will follow as time advances. Let the Kingswood people, then, remember the growing future. Let the lessons of the past stimulate them to greater diligence ; let them remember that, as it was then, when the darkness was intense, so will it be in the future again—"Gold in the sky !" Let them feel as Kingsley's spirit felt—

Sparks from heaven within them lying,
Flash and flashing till the last !

Let them remember all this, and succour an undying energy, and as Kingswood advances in years so will it advance in true prosperity.



